

Bomber dies after bungling attack

MYTILINI, Greece (R) — An air force man was killed Sunday when he bungled a bomb attack aimed at Greek conservative leader Constantine Mitsotakis. Police said Michael Pavlis, a 33-year-old warrant officer working at the air force communications centre on the Aegean island of Lesbos, was blown up as he placed the time-bomb in the ventilation shaft of a meeting room shortly after midnight. His dismembered body was found by his brother, Nikolaos, leader of the New Democracy Party, who was due to speak at the theatre in the island's capital Mytilene later Sunday. His party, which rules in coalition with the Communist Party, hopes to win an absolute majority in a general election in two weeks' time. Mitsotakis is running as a candidate on Lesbos, a traditional left-wing stronghold. Last month left-wing guerrillas shot dead his son-in-law, a law professor in Athens. Mitsotakis told supporters on Lesbos: "Certain attempts might be made to block the smooth course towards election. I am certain, however, that the people will frustrate any attempt to hinder a smooth course."

Jordan Times

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Three Palestinians killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank shot dead a teenage Arab girl Sunday and two Palestinians hit by army fire a day earlier died of their wounds, hospital staff said. Staff at Talbikim hospital said 16-year-old Samia Abu Zaid was shot dead and two protesters wounded by soldiers who clashed with stone-throwing youths in the nearby village of Baha. In Arab Jerusalem's Mokness hospital, Sami Akram Al-Bulbul, 18, and Abdel Abduh Lutfi Abu Leleh, 49, died from wounds received Saturday in clashes with troops in the West Bank town of Nablus, staff said. The deaths bring to 695 the number of Arabs killed in the 22-month Palestinian uprising, in the Gaza Strip troops shot and wounded three Arab protesters and Palestinian stone-throwers seriously injured an Israeli driving past Gaza City, sources said. Egyptian Ambassador Mohamed Hossainy Sunday asked Sharmouh Gores, Israel's top policymaker in the occupied territories, to investigate the beating of an Arab in the Gaza Strip Friday.

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Breakthrough in Taif

TAIF, Saudi Arabia (Agencies) — Christian deputies said Sunday they had accepted a compromise peace plan for Lebanon despite fierce opposition from Christian army chief General Michel Aoun. They said all 31 Christian deputies at peace talks with their Muslim colleagues in the Saudi resort of Taif accepted the revised Arab League plan, drafted in response to their demand for an early withdrawal of Syria's 33,000 troops. The revisions, proposed by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal after two days of talks in Damascus, provide for a joint Lebanese-Syrian decision on the future of the troops. After the announcement a full session of the 63 parliament members, the first since Oct. 5, was scheduled for Sunday night. The east Beirut deputies, after reaching tentative agreement on Syria's proposals for a pullout of its troops from Lebanon, sent a four-man delegation to Prince Saud.

asked for the guarantees from Saudi Arabia and its partners Morocco and Algeria in the Arab League mediation committee, and they also had reservations about the proposed increase of parliament seats to 128. The sources said Prince Saud agreed to provide a clarification or a statement that would alleviate the concern of the deputies from east Beirut, incorporating a pledge of the committee to continue its mission until the entire peace plan was implemented. They said the meeting with the minister also ended in agreement that the parliament seats will be 108, equally divided between Muslims and Christians. It was not immediately clear how the issue would be resolved. The mediators have been referring to deputies from east Beirut and deputies from west Beirut as the lawmakers are not entirely divided along sectarian lines. East Beirut is Christian-controlled. But the team that went to see Prince Saud was led by Kazem Khalil, a Shi'ite Muslim,

and George Saadeh, the leader of the Christian Falange Party. There was no immediate reaction from Aoun, who called the amendments worse than the original agreements in newspaper interviews published Sunday. Sources close to Aoun said Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi was expected to arrive in Beirut late Sunday. Political sources said Brahimi would invite Aoun and Salim Al Hoss, who heads a rival Syrian-backed cabinet, to meet in Saudi Arabia for reconciliation talks. An aide to Aoun said earlier Sunday there had been no recent contact between the general and deputies in Taif. "When they return we will see if their stand preserves sovereignty and independence. The meeting there has no legal grounds. It is just an agreement among deputies," he said. Political sources in Taif said Syria continued to rule out a total withdrawal as long as Israeli troops remained in a self-declared "security zone" in South

Lebanon. Israel has made it clear it will never pull out of the zone while its northern border is threatened by instability in Lebanon. However Damascus agreed to remove its troops from around Beirut's parliament building so deputies could meet to formally approve political reforms agreed at Taif, elect a new president and form a new government. The deputies have already agreed in principle on a series of reforms that would give the Muslim majority a greater say and reduce the powers of the Maronite Christians. Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco, who formed the peace committee in response to the worst fighting in Lebanon's civil war, unveiled their original "charter for national reconciliation" in May. A ceasefire was agreed last month in the six months of artillery battles sparked in mid-March when Aoun declared "a war of liberation" against Syria in which at least 850 people were killed.



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his return home Sunday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

King returns home

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday returned home at the end of a six-day official visit to Canada, preceded by a working visit to Italy. On his way back, King Hussein made a stopover in London where he delivered a political lecture at Oxford University at an invitation by the university. Upon arrival in Amman airport, King Hussein was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Faisal, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran, King Hussein's advisors, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid, Cabinet ministers, the King's private chamberlain, the Royal Court secretary general, the chief of staff and senior military and civil officials, in addition to the ambassadors of Italy, Canada and Britain. Also returning with King Hussein was Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh. During his visit to Canada, the King, who was accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, held talks with Canadian leaders, including the governor-general and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, on Middle East peace efforts and Jordanian-Canadian relations. The King also delivered several lectures on the Middle East prospects for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Self-styled 'collaborators' threaten uprising activists

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A group of self-styled collaborators with Israel from the village of Hovara, near Nablus, has issued a leaflet threatening to kill activists in the Palestinian uprising unless they stopped anti-Israeli activities. "There are 15 days only for the inciters to repent," the leaflet said. The leaflet follows an increase in killings of alleged collaborators with Israel. At least 132 Palestinians have been slain by fellow Arabs as suspected collaborators during the 22-month-old uprising. Reporters said the leaflet was handed out to passers-by Saturday night by four masked men accompanied by an army jeep. In the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, four Palestinians were reported wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers. Gaza City was closed by a protest strike over the death of an 18-year-old Saturday from wounds suffered in a clash with soldiers. At least 598 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops or civilians in the uprising. An Israeli reservist due to start two years in jail for shooting dead two Palestinians, the most severe sentence given any soldier since the start of the uprising, was Sunday given time to appeal, the

army said. His lawyer kept him out of jail by successfully petitioning central army commander Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai, arguing that the defence had been unable to call witnesses who might have helped its case. Reserve Sergeant Ilan Orev, 25, was sentenced last Sunday to two years in prison and a third year suspended for killing two West Bank Palestinians in Bani Naim village in May 1988. It was the most harsh punishment imposed on a soldier for offences committed during the uprising.

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Arafat, Mubarak discuss peace moves; Israel says contacts on

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat met Sunday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the eve of a mini summit in Baghdad, Iraq, which will focus on recent obstacles in Middle East peace efforts. Arafat arrived earlier Sunday and was greeted at Cairo airport by Foreign Minister Ezzat Abdel Meguid. Arafat told reporters on arrival that the visit was part of the regular Egyptian-Palestinian coordination, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. "We are always interested in consulting with President Hosni Mubarak and reviewing the latest developments and putting him in the picture regarding the developments that took place at the recent PLO Central Council in Baghdad," Arafat was quoted by MENA as saying. He described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as "Mr. No." and said Israel's repressive actions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would also be discussed. Arafat met with Mubarak for two hours in the presence of Egyptian and Palestinian delegations. There were no statements issued after the talks. The two leaders are to join heads of state of Jordan, North Yemen and Iraq in Baghdad

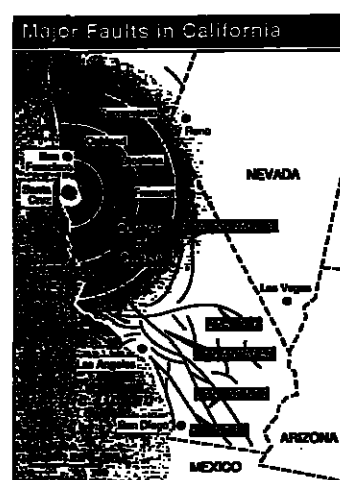
within a few days to attend a celebration marking the reconstruction of the war-damaged Iraqi port of Fao, the AP said. Arab diplomatic sources quoted by the AP said the summit was urged by the PLO to canvass support for its latest bid for a Palestinian-Israeli peace settlement. The PLO Central Council met in Baghdad last week and called on Arab countries to stay away from peace moves which exclude the PLO. It rejected American and Egyptian proposals to bring about Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Israel also turned down the proposals saying they would lead to a dialogue with the PLO. A top aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Sunday that Israeli and American leaders were holding intense negotiations by telephone to try to bridge their differences over Middle East peace moves. The contacts were reported as Shamir's governing partners in the Labour Party threatened to support a parliamentary motion to topple the coalition cabinet unless he showed more flexibility with the Americans. Shamir's adviser, Avi Pazner, denied reports that U.S. efforts to arrange preliminary talks between Israeli and Palestinian representatives had broken down in

disagreement over who the Arab negotiators would be. "This is not true. We are at the height of negotiations with the Americans," Pazner told the AP in a telephone interview. Israel has so far dismissed efforts by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to arrange a meeting with Palestinians on Israel's election proposal. Israeli officials have contended Baker's call for a meeting with a Palestinian delegation "acceptable" to Israel would leave open a possible role in the talks by the PLO. Pazner sought to dispel reports of tensions with Washington, saying there were continued contacts by telephone between Baker and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens aimed at finding a compromise. He said the last call was Friday. Pazner also denied reports published by Israeli newspapers Sunday that Baker was pushing for a quick reply to his proposals from Shamir, who is due to visit Washington in mid-November. In Tunis, the United States has held fresh talks with the PLO on ways to advance the Middle East peace process. The PLO representative in Tunis, Hakam Balaoui, met American Ambassador Robert Pettrean Saturday evening.

California rescue at slow pace

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies) — Rescuers euphoric over finding a survivor in a collapsed freeway resumed work at a cautious pace Sunday, and earthquake-shaken northern Californians prepared for Monday's commute through "gridlock." Longshoreman Buck Helm, who spent four days in a tomb of Interstate 880 concrete and steel, was in critical-stable condition at Highland General Hospital in Oakland with some slight improvement, hospital officials said. The number of dead pulled from the I-880 disaster rose to 38, including a four-year-old boy, bringing the earthquake's toll to 59, with thousands injured and homeless and dozens still missing. Damages topped \$7 billion. Sunday was a day for both mourning the dead and giving thanks for the living at churches across the Bay area. Special services were set because some damaged churches remain too dangerous, and congregants were encouraged to share their quake experiences. Family members, friends and an estimated 250 well-wishers gathered at the hospital where Helm, 57, was being cared for by a team of doctors who said they thought he might survive. A rescuer spotted Helm Saturday moving his hand in his car which was nearly flattened under concrete from a col-

lapsed two-tier motorway in Oakland, across San Francisco Bay, after hope had been almost abandoned of finding anyone alive. He suffered three broken ribs, a broken skull and a crushed leg but doctors said there was a chance he would recover. "I think his condition is critical and his prognosis is guarded, but there certainly is a chance he's going to make it and do well," said Dr. Randy Rasmussen. Tuesday's earthquake, the most deadly in the United States since 1906, measured 6.9 on the open-ended Richter Scale. Commuters face a nightmare of blocked roads and closed bridges when they return to work Monday for the first time since the earthquake struck. Power was fully restored this weekend throughout San Francisco's business district. "It may be the worst day of gridlock we've ever seen," said San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos. Several major roadways and two bridges were closed because of earthquake damage. Engineers said it might be years before all damage is repaired. Authorities had at one time estimated up to 250 motorists had been crushed beneath the two kilometres of the top deck of the Oakland motorway which collapsed. But they now say that figure was much too high. Helm's discovery renewed efforts by about 1,000 workers to search the wreckage, using sound-monitoring equipment and infrared cameras, a state highway authority spokesman said. "We will be working around the clock until the entire rescue effort is completed," said Kyle Nelson, spokesman for California's transportation authority. Helm was the first rescuee from the highway wreckage since Tuesday when a seven-year-old boy was freed after doctors amputated part of his leg. An estimated 8,000 people were made homeless by the



earthquake and authorities said many had no food, shelter or warm clothing as rain and near-freezing temperatures swept the area at the weekend. The rain threatened to create mudslides in areas where soil was loosened by the earthquake and its aftershocks. It also threatened to cause more buildings to collapse. Digging to remove cars and bodies was delayed because the double-deck freeway, which collapsed on top of itself, shifted under the strains of aftershocks, wind and even the rescue work itself. Workers placed giant airbags, hydraulic jacks and wood timbers under concrete sections, and used truckloads of dirt to build a sturdier foundation. "We need to use every trick in the rescue books to make sure no one's still up here alive," said Bill Bromley, a construction worker moving debris. "We know now that it's possible. We're going as fast as we can." A half-dozen impromptu tent cities have sprung up around Watsonville, the battered, largely Hispanic city south of San Francisco and closer to the epicenter. Hundreds of residents there are so traumatised by the quake and its aftershocks, which have been strong and numerous, that they refuse to go indoors.

Spanish Socialists tipped to retain majority

MADRID (AP) — Polls published Sunday suggested Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's ruling Socialist Party would obtain its third straight parliamentary majority in the Oct. 29 general elections. The survey in Spain's leading daily El Pais indicated the Socialists would win between 176 and 182 of the 350 seats in the Lower House of the parliament (Cortes). The Socialists currently hold 182 seats, down from the 202 won when they swept into power for the first time in October 1982. A poll published in Diario 16 and the Barcelona daily El Periodico suggested the Socialists would retain their majority, but with fewer seats, between 174 and 178. A third poll in the Madrid daily Ya indicated the party would take between 173 and 183 seats. All three nationwide surveys sampled between 6,000 and 9,000 of the nation's 29.5 million registered voters, and all three suggested the conservative Popular Party would retain its place as the major opposition force with between 87 and 101 seats to its current 91. The polls also indicated the United Left Coalition, led by the former mayor of Cordoba, would make the greatest inroads, possibly doubling its current seven seats. El Pais said the Socialists would owe their third majority-less to ideology than to the perception on the part of the majority of Spaniards that their economic situation and future possibilities have taken a positive turn under Gonzalez's leadership. For the past three years, Spain has enjoyed a "five per cent annual rate of economic growth, a European high. Of the small, regional parties, among the strongest are the conservative Basque Nationalist Party and the radical Basque coalition Herri Batasuna, the political arm of the Basque separatist group ETA.

'Chinese leaders have secret escape routes'

LONDON (R) — China's hard-line leaders have built secret rail tunnels under Peking which could be used to crush resurgent pro-democracy protests or to enable officials to flee a crisis, according to a film to be broadcast Monday. A former Chinese civil servant, who fled to Hong Kong after troops crushed mass pro-democracy demonstrations in June, told the British World in Action programme the tunnels linked leaders' homes, government buildings, the central bank and an army base. "We built up this network over 40 years as a defence against a foreign invader... but now they could use such means to escape from China or to deal the last blow against the people," he said, according to a transcript of Independent Television's programme. "This is all linked with underground escape passage," he said. "I had the opportunity to use these trains." The programme did not reveal the name of the former civil servant, saying only that he was a junior official in his 20s with access to high-level information and close contact with leaders. Rumours of a secret rail line and an interlinking honeycomb of passages have circulated in Peking for many years, but there was never been any confirmation of its existence. The informant said there was a station under the Great Hall of the People, where thousands of

troops flooded onto the streets to begin a bloody army crackdown in early June. Asked if they had entered the hall from the station, skirting thousands of protesters jamming Tiananmen Square, he said he could not be sure. "I just don't know." Diplomats in Peking believe hundreds, possibly thousands of people died on June 3 and 4, mostly trying to stop army convoys passing through the city to the centre. The former civil servant said there was another secret station at the government residence compound, Zhongnanhai. The line rejoins the public system at Qianmen station. Another branch goes to the Bank of China, allowing security forces to evacuate gold reserves in crisis, he said. A further arm of the secret system connects with the Xi Shan military base, carved into the side of a mountain to the west of the city. The documentary also contained secretly filmed interviews with students who said the government appeared determined to avoid any resurgence of the protests that shook the country in May and June. "There are lots of different tactics. For example, especially at Peking University they will encourage students to write reports behind each other's back," he said.

Pontiff appeals for Palestinians

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul issued a strong call Sunday for a homeland for Palestinians and said no one could not be "indifferent" to their suffering in the Israeli-occupied territories. In a brief speech after praying the Angelus, the pontiff expressed solidarity with the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip who have been waging a rebellion for about two years. The Pope did not directly mention Israel, but appeared critical of the country. "From the Holy Land come calls for help and solidarity from the inhabitants of the West Bank and from Gaza," the pontiff said after his weekly recital of the Angelus. "They are the cries of an entire people which today is particularly tried and feels weaker after decades of conflict with another people linked to the same land by their history and their faith. "It is not permissible to be indifferent to this call, especially before the daily pain of so many people. I would like to express to these people my most profound solidarity, assuring them that the Pope continues to make his own legitimate request to live in peace in a country of their own, respecting the rights of every other people to enjoy the necessary security and tranquility."

More reform marches in E. Germany

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany's Communist rulers pledged swift action at the weekend to ease travel to the West but the country's worst crisis in 36 years mounted with more marches for democracy by tens of thousands of people. In East Berlin, where police clashed with demonstrators two weeks ago on East Germany's 40th anniversary, several thousand people defied an appeal from a politburo member to disperse and walked Saturday in a human chain through the city centre. In Plauen, a southern border town, marchers shouted "Freedom of speech" and "Freedom of travel" in a two-hour protest. The official news agency ADN said up to 15,000 people took part. Witnesses estimated the crowd was twice that size. Police made no attempt to

break up either these marches or a silent, candle-lit protest Friday evening in the southern industrial city of Dresden. Authorities estimated the Dresden crowd at 20,000. Witnesses said it was up to 50,000 strong. Egon Krenz, the Communist Party leader who replaced hard-liner Erich Honecker on Oct. 18, received a message of support Saturday from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in a telephone conversation. ADN said they had agreed that Krenz should visit Moscow soon on his first foreign trip as leader. Diplomats said Krenz would probably go there after a session of parliament Tuesday where he is expected to be confirmed as head of state. Krenz, a former security chief, is grappling with the worst unrest in East Germany since Soviet forces suppressed a workers' up-

rising in June 1953. Hundreds of thousands of people have joined illegal pro-democracy marches this month. More than 120,000 of the 16.6 million East Germans have left for the West this year. From early Saturday to Sunday, some 1,349 people crossed from Hungary through Austria into West Germany, officials in Munich said. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Saturday the crisis showed East Germany should allow free elections. "Our compatriots... must finally be allowed to express for themselves which road they want to take," he told a rally. Politburo member Guenter Schabowski, trying in vain to stop the East Berlin march, told the protesters that the authorities were giving the highest priority to a new law on travel to the West and a draft would be ready in the

coming week. "We will have to get used to living for a time with people seeing everything we do as a trap, even though it isn't," he said, in a rare example of a senior Communist official debating spontaneously on the street with opposition supporters. In its weekend edition, the party daily Neues Deutschland said it was certain that travel restrictions would be relaxed. It said East Germans would no longer have to give officials a specific reason for wanting to visit a Western country. But it cautioned that East Germany did not have enough foreign currency to fund large-scale travel to the West, and it said West Germany was posing obstacles by insisting that all East Germans could become West German citizens if they wished.

Turkey blames Syria for downing survey plane

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, accusing two Syrian MiG-21 fighters of shooting down a civilian survey plane and killing the five people on board, demanded an explanation at border talks Sunday.

In Damascus, a Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman said an investigation would be held and offered condolences to Turkey and the dead men's families for "this painful incident."

The governor of Turkey's Hatay province, Hani Demirkol, headed a Turkish team which met a delegation from the Syrian border province of Latakia in a hut at the Cilvegözü-Bab Al-Hawa border point.

"We will present the Syrians with tapes of their pilots, showing that they knew what they were doing," said Halim Corbali, head of Turkey's Deeds and Land Taxation Survey Department.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry said the MiG-21s attacked the survey department plane in Hatay province, 20 kilometres inside the border, at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) Saturday.

"It was the last day of a 10-day series of flights, not even along the border, photographing and measuring forests," Corbali told Reuters. "The Syrian authorities had been informed. If you ask me, the pilots are responsible."

The two pilots and three surveyors died when the twin-engine plane crashed in open countryside. Cannon-shell cartridge cases were found nearby.

The plane, one of two working at the time, had been flying at 2,400 metres. Both planes were

returning to base because light cloud made conditions unsuitable for aerial photography, Corbali said.

The Syrian spokesman told Reuters Damascus hoped the incident would not affect friendly and good neighbourly relations between the two countries, regardless of the outcome of the investigation.

Both the Turkish and Syrian statements appeared to show a measured response, Ankara-based diplomats said.

"You can be a conspiracy theorist... but shooting down a plane is out of all proportion to any bilateral tensions," one European diplomat said.

Relations between NATO-member Turkey and Syria have been strained for decades over Syrian claims on Hatay, a one-time province of the Ottoman Empire known as Antioch in French-mandate Syria until Turkey took sovereignty in 1939.

There has also been friction over Syria's alleged support for Kurdish separatist rebels in Turkey and over Turkey's control of the waters of the Euphrates River, northern Syria's life-line.

Syrian Ambassador Abdul Aziz Al Rifai later visited Turkish officials to express Syria's deep regret officially, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said.

"An investigation is under

way. Those responsible will be severely punished and measures taken to prevent any repetition of such an incident," it quoted Rifai and Syrian officials in Damascus as saying.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal hinted on Oct. 1 that Ankara might cut back the flow from the Euphrates unless Damascus kept a tight rein on rebels based in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz softened the criticism on Oct. 6, saying Turkey did not believe Syria was supporting terrorism "but we want them to take such claims seriously."

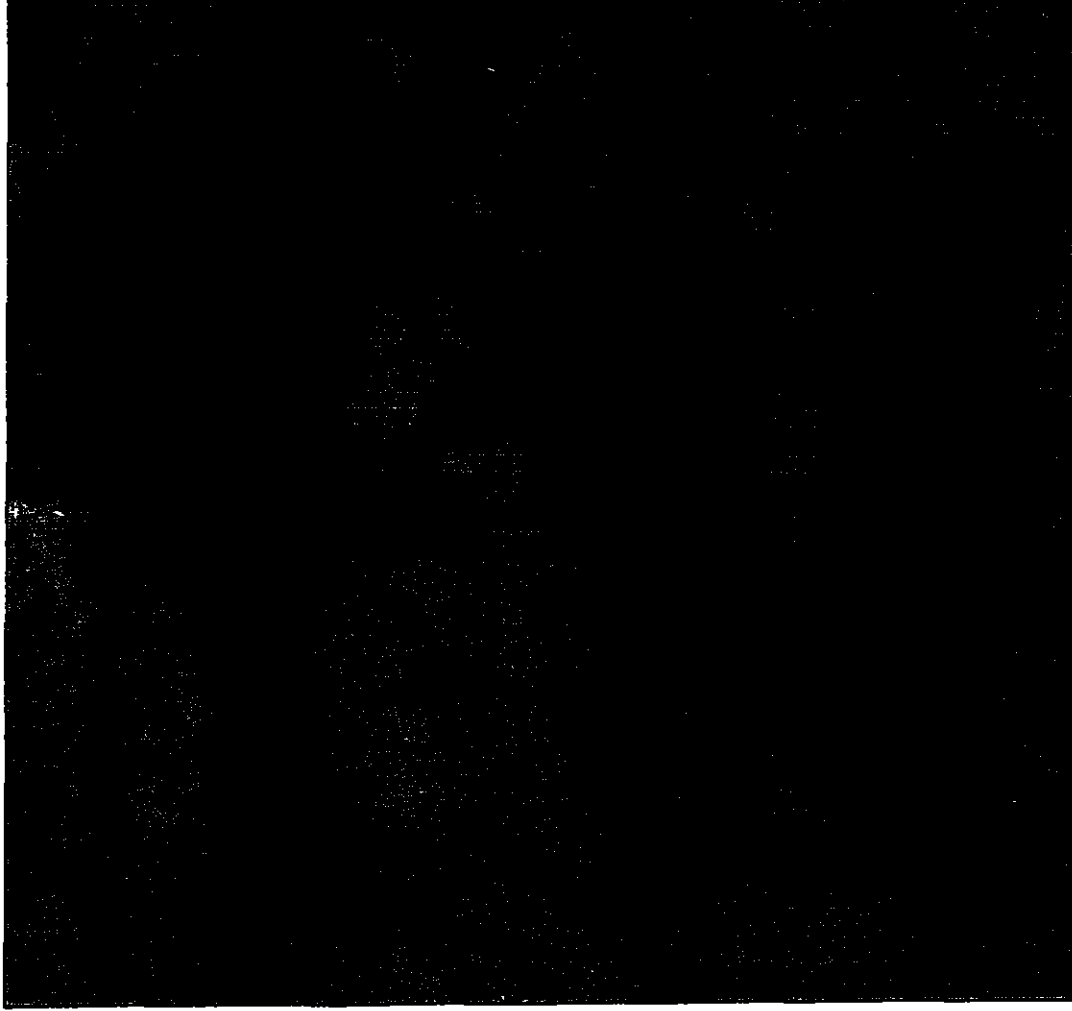
Turkish diplomats say parallel security and water accords agreed in 1987 between Ozal and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad have worked reasonably well.

But nationalist Turkish newspapers frequently accuse Syria of intervening directly on the side of the rebel Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). About 2,000 people have been killed in the insurgency since 1984.

Syria has conveyed its condolences to the families of five crew members.

Turkish Ambassador Erhan Turcol met late Saturday with Foreign Ministry officials and was told that Syria set up a "specialised committee to investigate the incident," the ministry said.

It asked Turcol to "convey the condolences of the Syrian government to the Turkish government and the families of the victims in this painful incident."



A Palestinian boy, arrested in Occupied Jerusalem's Old City, is led by an Israeli soldier as the boy's mother clutches his arm.

Palestinian uprising rages on, but world media interest wanes

By Anton Ferreira
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Empty bar stools at Occupied Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel are a sure sign that world media interest in the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule has waned.

At one time visiting correspondents thronged the cellar bar of East Jerusalem's elegant hotel, the 19th century palace of an Ottoman pasha where Lawrence of Arabia once stayed.

But elbow room at the bar has increased as coverage of the uprising in the occupied territories, now nearly two years old, has dwindled in foreign newspapers and television programmes.

"There are nearly no journalists staying here now," said Hotel Manager Ueli Manger. "The intifada (uprising) has become fourth page news."

Dr. Joel Cohen, a media expert at the Hebrew University, said the number of foreign correspondents visiting Israel rose from about 60 a month in the two months before the intifada started in December 1987 to more than 300 afterwards.

The figure remained at 350 until April 1988, then dropped to half and dwindled to about 60 within months.

"The intifada died as a major daily news story after five months," Cohen said.

Many correspondents say the story gripped world attention longer than that, but they agree that in recent months the focus has shifted from clashes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to political efforts towards a settlement.

"You can't get stories about how many Palestinians were killed or wounded today into overseas newspapers anymore," said Willy Bouman, correspondent for the Dutch Kro Radio and Television Station who has worked in Israel for 20 years.

"You have to go beneath the surface, and if you do there are

many interesting stories," she said.

Many Palestinians are unhappy at the diminishing coverage of daily violence in the occupied territories.

"I appreciated the role of the foreign press so much at the start of the intifada, although lately they seem to be diverting their attention from the daily toll of casualties," said Radwan Abu Ayash, head of the Palestine Journalists Union.

He and Hanna Simora, editor of the Arabic daily Al-Fajr, noted that journalists face considerable constraints in covering the intifada.

Stories on security issues are subject to censorship and the army declares areas closed at will, barring journalists.

Security forces are reported to have masqueraded as journalists, putting genuine reporters in jeopardy.

Relations between the press and the Israeli army are at best fragile. The army says cameras provoke Palestinians to riot, but the Foreign Press Association (FPA) rejects this charge.

"It's extremely unfortunate that after 20 months or so we still hear senior government officials say the press is responsible for the

violence in the territories," said FPA Chairman Bob Slater.

"We're doing our jobs in the most neutral way possible, trying to cover both sides of the story," Bouman acknowledged that it was sometimes difficult to be objective about the conflict.

"You can only try to tell the truth. But what's the truth for one person is lies for another, what's justice for one person is injustice for another," he said.

Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner said foreign journalists were not objective.

"They are biased very much in favour of Palestinians, who are presented as being underdogs, as daring David fighting the might of the Israeli Goliath," he said.

Cohen said the very fact that the intifada pitted Palestinian civilians — the underdogs — against the military top dog of the Middle East made it interesting to the world public.

But the drop in news staffing was a result of a declining interest among the public at large.

"The reason that public interest has dropped off is that the level of violence never changed significantly," Cohen said. "Had the intifada turned into a rebellion like in Algeria, it would have received continuing coverage."

ICRC asks Syria to help free Lebanon hostages

DAMASCUS (R) — The International Red Cross has asked Syria to help free two Swiss employees held hostage in Lebanon, a Red Cross official said Sunday.

The official told Reuters the request was made during a meeting in Damascus Saturday between Syrian Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam and Angelo Gnaedinger, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Geneva-based director for the Middle East and North Africa.

Gunmen seized Emmanuel

Christen, 32, and Elio Enriquez, 23, at the entrance to the Ain Al Hilweh Palestine refugee camp near the southern Lebanese port of Sidon on Oct. 6.

"Gnaedinger expressed the Red Cross' concern over the threats by an unknown group which kidnapped them," the official said. "Vice-President Khaddam expressed his country's condemnation of such acts."

Gnaedinger had since gone to Beirut in a further effort to secure the release of the two men, he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

'Moscow spends \$800m to help Kabul'

RIYADH (R) — Afghan rebel leader Shibanullah Mojaddidi was quoted Sunday as saying Moscow was spending more than \$800 million a month to prop up the Kabul government. Mojaddidi, president of the Pakistan-based Mujahideen government-in-exile, said rebels had failed to oust pro-Moscow Afghan leader Najibullah because of continued Soviet financial and military support. "Following the announcement on the full Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan (in February), we believed we could enter Kabul within a few months," Mojaddidi told the Saudi newspaper Okaz in an interview in the Pakistani city of Peshawar where the Mujahideen have their headquarters. "But the Soviets are still there with their intensive support to the Kabul regime." Western analysts say the Mujahideen have failed to defeat Kabul's forces because of divisions within their ranks and a lack of cohesive military plan.

Algeria, Italy to cooperate in radio, TV

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria and Italy signed a three-year protocol to cooperate in radio and television, the Algerian News Agency (APS) reported. Italian State Radio and Television will give training and technical assistance to its Algerian counterparts. The two countries are to cooperate in co-productions and the exchange of programmes.

Kuwait shelves plans to buy Mirage

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait has no plans to buy French-made Mirage 2000 jet fighters at present, a senior commander was quoted Sunday as saying by the daily Al Anba. Maj.-Gen. Jaber Khaled Al Sabah, deputy chief of staff of the armed forces, said deal with the United States for 40 F-18 warplanes is enough to fulfill Kuwait's needs for the time being. "Kuwait considers the F-18 warplane suitable for its air force," he said. "But this does not mean that other planes are inferior to it. The Kuwaiti Air Force is not in need of more arms." He was quoted as saying that "Kuwait has no intention at present of buying the Mirage 2000 jet." It was the first remark by a senior Kuwaiti official that the government had decided against purchasing the French warplanes. Both the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah had said last month that Kuwait had not yet decided whether to buy the sophisticated planes. The \$1.8 billion deal for the F-18s was concluded during visit to the United States by Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah in July last year. Delivery starts in 1994.

2,400 Ethiopian troops reportedly killed

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels fighting in northern Ethiopia said Sunday they killed over 2,400 government troops in fighting last week in Wollo and Gondar regions. The voice of the Tigray Revolution Radio, monitored in Nairobi, said the army of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front had also captured over 3,800 Ethiopian troops. The radio said the fighting broke out on Oct. 16 when government forces attacked rebel-held areas near Dese, and battles later took place in Kimer Ringel, in Gondar region. The rebels dealt heavy blows to the 25th Motorised Brigade and the 33rd Brigade of the Ethiopian army, the rebel radio said. The broadcasts confirmed earlier reports from Addis Ababa of heavy fighting in the Dese and Gondar areas.

Libya denies helping Somalia

NICOSIA (R) — Libya denied Sunday that it had sent troops and arms to Somalia to help the government to combat rebels in the north of the country. "There is no truth to the rumours published in the media that Libya has sent troops and arms to Somalia," the Libyan News Agency (LNA) quoted an official source in the People's Committee for Foreign and International Affairs as saying. The rebel Somali National Movement said last week that 700 Libyans, including soldiers, pilots and technicians, had arrived in Somalia and the port at Mogadishu was closed for three days while Libyan arms shipments were unloaded. Israel Radio's Arabic service also said last week that Libyan weapons had been delivered to help government troops in their fight against the rebels in northern Somalia. The rebels, who have been trying to topple President Mohammad Siad Barre since 1981, stepped up their efforts last year in a war which has created thousands of refugees.

Iran again blames Iraq for stalemate

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati has again blamed Iraq for the stalemate in Gulf peace talks saying he doubted any progress could be made. Velayati told the Iranian newspaper Jomhuri Eslami in an interview published Sunday that Iraq was not committed to U.N. Resolution 598 which brought about a ceasefire in the eight year war in August 1988. "If the current trend continues, it is not clear whether we will make tangible progress in future," the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) quoted the foreign minister as telling the paper.

Trial of Moroccan editor postponed

RABAT (R) — The trial of a Moroccan newspaper editor charged with public order offences for publishing allegations from human rights groups was postponed for a second time, court sources said. Moroccan editor Khalid Kaitouni of the daily L'Opinion is charged with publishing false information likely to cause a breach of the peace. Kaitouni, whose trial was postponed to Oct. 26, published without comment a joint statement by the Moroccan Association and League of Human Rights which said four people died in detention in August. The trial, which opened on Oct. 5 and was immediately adjourned for two weeks at the request of the defence, has become a major political issue. Human rights groups, journalists and trade unions have all condemned the authorities for what they say is a deliberate attack on the freedom of the press which is guaranteed by the Moroccan constitution.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 Flying Doctors
15:55 News summary in Arabic
16:00 Local series
16:05 Local programme
16:10 Programme review
16:15 News in Arabic
16:20 Arabic series
16:25 Programme review
16:30 Local programmes
16:35 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
16:15 Des Chiffres et de lettres
16:40 Les Pique Asiettes
16:50 News in French
16:55 Weekly Sport magazine
17:00 News in Hebrew
17:05 Varieties
17:10 Golden Girls
17:15 The Justice Game
17:20 News in English
17:25 Blue Blood

PRAYER TIMES

06:25 Fajr
06:40 (Sunrise) Duha
11:20 Dhuhr
14:30 'Asr
17:50 Maghrib
18:17 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assiuta International Church Tel. 638326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654922

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures will rise to normal average and winds will be southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm seas.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. George Sahouni 776751
Dr. Tayir Khader 688857
Dr. Salim Tannous 89803
Dr. Mohammad Amran 639999
First pharmacy 661912
Pardons pharmacy 778336
Al Aqaba pharmacy 637055
Nagroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Sabun pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 646495
Shimassal pharmacy 637660

IBRD:
Dr. Fawwaz Momani (-)
Al Shamsa pharmacy 985236

ZARQA:
Dr. Mufid Danna (-)
Khafif pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661121
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 016390
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Basmal Medical Centre 813813/32
Khafif Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akhele Maternity, J. Amn. 642442
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mafher, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munawwar Hospital 667221/9
The Islamic, Abdali 665127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/26
Amn, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602340/50
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/991071
Ibn Sina Hospital 09/986752
IBRAHIM:
Princess Basma Hospital 02/225535
Greek Catholic Hospital 02/222775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 02/247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03/314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
18:00 Damascus (RJ)
18:00 Sana'a (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
11:45 Laraca (RJ)
11:00 Dharan, Kuwait (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
18:00 Baghdad (RJ)
18:45 Vienna, Istanbul (RJ)
19:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:30 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Dubai (EK)
18:18 Sana'a (LE)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower prices in Jds per kg.
Apple (golden) 420 / 380
Apple (red) 330 / 480
Banana 450 / 400
Banana (Mozambique) 400 / 350
Beans 380 / 320
Cabbage 180 / 140
Carrot 350 / 300
Cauliflower 260 / 200
Corn 230 / 200
Cucumber (large) 200 / 150
Cucumbers (small) 420 / 360
Eggplant 230 / 200
Garlic 900 / 800
Grapes 240 / 200
Grapes (black) 420 / 380
Grapes (sweet) 380 / 350
Guava 220 / 180
Lemon 180 / 150
Mallow 140 / 120
Marrow (large) 180 / 150
Marrow (small) 340 / 280
Onion 600 / 550
Onion (dry) 470 / 400
Orange 320 / 280
Pepper (hot) 200 / 160
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 160
Pineapple 350 / 300
Potato 600 / 550
Sage 400 / 350
Spinach 300 / 250
Tomatoes 220 / 170
Water Melon 200 / 170

ELECTIONS '89

By Nermeen Murad

DR. ALI Hawandeh of the Muslim Brotherhood arrived late Saturday for a public debate held at the Professional Associations Complex in which he was one of five speakers. When he walked in, he was cheered and clapped until he reached the podium although Abdul Rahim Omar was in the middle of presenting himself at that same time. This is not a problem, since Hawandeh informed the organisers of the debate earlier that he would be late, and we can excuse the crowds for wanting to express their support. The problem is that Hawandeh also left early because he had a previous engagement and the cheerleaders of his crowd stood up at that same time and Hawandeh's crowd, who occupied the first three rows of seats in the hall, left the room before the debate was finished and while Omar was speaking.

A CANDIDATE explained to me how the candidates' banners were being ripped when they are hung so high. Apparently, supporters of rival candidates ride trucks carrying a lance-like instrument which touches the side of the banners and causes a relatively small rip. Mother nature then goes to work and the banners rip completely. I must disagree with some candidates who are calling for "liberating the creativity of our Jordanian citizens" if this is what it means.

A RUMOUR is spreading in town that a tribal candidate is receiving threats from a religious group because he would not withdraw in favour of a religious leader. Really democratic, isn't it?

LAST WEEK it was rumoured that Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh had a heart attack. When a reporter called his home to check the validity of this claim, the reporter was answered by Rawabdeh himself who assured him that he was in good health adding: "If the devil himself came to take my soul now, I would take his."

UDD starts distribution of Um Nuwara housing units

AMMAN (Petra) — The Urban Development Department (UDD) will start distributing 180 housing units in Um Nuwara in a project aimed at meeting the housing needs of low-income categories.

At a press conference held Sunday, UDD Director-General Hishma Al Zaghra said that the 180 units make up the first stage of an integrated housing project in Um Nuwara in the outskirts of Amman. The 1,800-housing project includes schools, clinics, vocational training centres. Zaghra said that the UDD, since its creation in 1980, had

carried three housing projects in Amman, Russeifa, Marka and Zarga at a total cost of JD 90 million. He praised the role played by the Housing Bank in financing the costs of the projects through loans provided to the department. The UDD director said that the department's projects were financed through three sources mainly the World Bank, the Treasury and the Housing Bank. He said that the World Bank contribution was 30 per cent and that the government contribution was 30 per cent while the Housing Bank's contribution is 40 per cent.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

MOSQUE EXTENDED: Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Sunday inaugurated an extension to Ali Saqr Mosque and laid the foundation stones for two new mosques in Hay Nazzal. The inauguration of these mosques coincides with Jordan's celebrations of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday.

PRICE VIOLATOR SENTENCED: The military court has sentenced Issa Khalil Salem Al Bloul to two months imprisonment and a JD 50 fine for price manipulation. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

JEA CONNECTS VILLAGE: Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Sunday connected Ruweisid village in Mafrqa Governorate with electric power, the JEA said. It said that the village, which has a population of 4000, was connected to the national power grid through a 132/33 kilovolt main transformer station. (Petra)

SOCIAL SECURITY LAW: A royal decree has been issued endorsing the amendment of the Social Security Fund Law applicable to employees of the Ministry of Education. The amendment increases cuts of the employees' salaries, by an average of half a dinar monthly. (Petra)

CABINET APPOINTS MAYORS: The Cabinet has approved the appointment of Hassan Assaf Nazzal Al Dawamash, Tayyar Karim Fahah Al Zyud, and Saleh Mohammad Zaytoon respectively as mayors of Mughir Al Sarhan, Al Hashimiyah, and 'Arjan. (Petra)

FIQH MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM: Director General of the Orphan Fund Abdul Salam Al Abbadi left for Kuwait Sunday to represent Jordan in a four-day Islamic Fiqh medical symposium. The symposium, organised by the Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences, will look into a number of pressing and contemporary issues such as the transplantation of brain cells and other human nervous system and the use of foetus for medical and scientific purposes. Abbadi said that he would present to the symposium a working paper on the use of aborted foetus for the test tube babies operations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Fuad Minal and 'Ammar Khammash at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Discovered pictures in East Jerusalem" by Austrian artist Eva Patz at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddumi displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian plastic artist Basma Bstouli at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ A national book exhibition displaying political, economic, social and children's books at Raye Bint Al Hussein School, Madaba.
- ★ An exhibition of modern American books which includes books on agriculture, engineering, medicine and other topics, at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Jordanian master artists exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture, with slides, entitled "Modern Arts — Its Origin and Its Meaning" by Nelly Lama at the YWCA, 3rd Circle — 8:00 p.m.

125 formally charged in smuggled fat case

By Ahmad Khreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

Ahmad Kayed. At least 30 lawyers are defending the accused.

AMMAN — One hundred and twenty-five people were formally produced in a military court in Amman Sunday and charged with smuggling, transporting, selling, and buying and using unprocessed fat in foodstuffs for sale to the public.

The accused, many of them wearing overalls, were brought from the detention centre in six closed military vehicles under strict security to the court in Marka while family members and relatives gathered at the gates of the building.

The trials began with the prosecutor general, Captain Mohammad Hijazi, read out the charges which basically included smuggling, transporting, selling, buying and using it in processing foodstuff while aware that the material was unfit for human consumption.

A special courtroom has been set up for the trial in view of the number of the people being tried. The judges are Lieutenant-Colonel Hafez Amin Nobani, Major Salaheddin Zgoul and Major

After the charge sheet and the names of the defendants were read out, the court adjourned. The actual trial will begin Sunday.

Among the accused, all of whom were produced in court, are drivers and owners of tanker-trucks which used to transport edible oil to Iraq from Aqaba, drivers and owners of sewage trucks which carried oil siphoned from the tanker trucks and owners and employees of several foodstuff manufacturers and other establishments.

The government has been withholding the names of the accused, saying that only the names of those convicted would be released to the public since "some of them are guilty by association rather than direct participation" in the case, which surfaced in September with the interception of at least five sewage trucks carrying part of the smuggled oil.

It was not yet known how long will the trial last, and experts said it could take several court sessions spread over weeks.



Some of the 125 accused in the case involving smuggled unprocessed fat who were brought to court Sunday (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allaa)

Elections fever transforms Ma'an

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

MA'AN — Six months ago they were burning police cars and government buildings in this desert town in the south.

Now they are festooning the streets with the banners of rival candidates in next month's parliamentary election, knowing their protests were influential in accelerating the democratic process in the Kingdom.

"We never knew we had the power to change things for the better until the unrest," said Radi Ahmad, a civil servant in Ma'an.

"Ma'an people will be remembered for pointing out the pains of the Jordanian people and triggering change," he said.

Only a couple of blackened facades escaped the clean-up campaign after the April unrest in which Ma'an youths battled police and troops, burning banks and government buildings.

The families of the five residents who died say they received a JD 3,000 lump sum and a JD 50 monthly pension in compensation.

Sudden price rises in line with an International Monetary Fund-agreed austerity plan sparked the unrest.

The rioters were protesting not only at economic hardship but against a government they felt had lost touch with the people and was ignoring public opinion.

Subsequently the government of Zaid Rifai resigned and the new government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker was entrusted with preparing for elections and stamping out corruption.

Some 650 candidates, ranging from tribal chiefs to leftists and Muslim fundamentalists, plan to run in the Nov. 8 poll, the first general parliamentary election since 1967.

Political parties have been banned in Jordan since 1957, but known Muslim fundamentalists, Communists, Baathists and leftists are seeking to run for the 80-seat assembly.

Cracks in traditionalism

In Ma'an, 215 kilometres south of Amman, the campaign has exposed cracks in tribal authority, once paramount in most parts of rural Jordan.

A younger generation seeking change is challenging elders and blurring traditional lines of control.

"There is a struggle between the old and the new," said Tayseer Abu Darwish, an unemployed Ma'an resident.

"In the past the educational

and intellectual merits of the tribe's candidate did not count. The chief commanded the members and their votes. Now the leaders are losing their power."

Each tribe used to field one candidate, normally the leader. Now up to four candidates from a single tribe are competing on traditional, religious, nationalist or youth platform.

"Since my birth, I sleep and wake up seeing the same old people representing me," said Businessman Yassin Bazzy'ah, 32, who refers himself as Ma'an's youth candidate.

"The young people are looking for a new leadership to break the routine and assert their role in the changes we are witnessing," he told Reuters.

He said many of his fellow tribesmen supported his nomination despite opposition from traditional leaders.

Yousef Al Athem, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood and a Ma'an deputy since 1963 now running as an independent, said youngsters had become more educated and politically aware.

"These voters are trying to strike a balance between intellect, culture, politics and awareness on the one hand and honouring their tribe's candidates on the other," he said.

Athem said he was running on a religious platform and getting support from the Muslim Brotherhood even though he is not among the group's 26 official candidates around Jordan.

Town leaders said people in Ma'an, a rest-stop for pilgrims on their way to Mecca, were devout Muslims but not necessarily committed to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Election slogans address political and economic issues raised elsewhere in the Kingdom.

"No to corruption and its symbols and a thousand 'noes' to those fiddling with the country's security and playing around with the people's food," read one Ma'an banner.

Ma'an candidates echo demands made in other parts of Jordan for wider freedoms, including legalisation of political parties. Some say those responsible for the economic and financial crisis should be brought to account and even put on trial.

People voiced scepticism about the glittering promises made by some candidates.

"There is deceit in many of these programmes," said Haj Khaled, owner of an electrical goods store. "We don't want superman candidates who think they can fool us."

Nabulsi: Jordan seeks more Arab aid

AMMAN — Democracy, public freedoms and the right to form political parties were highlighted by the capital's Second District candidates as the essential steps on the road of national reform in the Kingdom.

In a public debate held at the Professional Associations Complex Saturday, five candidates with different political and social backgrounds also called for abolishing martial law which has been in force in Jordan since 1967.

"In the beginning I want to discuss citizen's political rights and political freedoms," said Al Jneidi, a politically active Second District candidate, told an audience of over 500 people.

Jneidi criticised the current election law as "discriminatory, sectarian and tribal," which he contended does not "guarantee equality" among Jordanian citizens.

He called for amending the 1986 Election Law as a necessary step towards guaranteeing human rights.

He criticised past government action against political activists and called for "fair trial of activists in civil courts and not military courts."

Jneidi highlighted the need to guarantee workers and labourers "their full rights" and called for amending the labour law, "which has not been amended since 1965 despite changes in the social and economic structure of the country."

Professional associations, Jneidi said, should retain their right to independence from "any kind of guardianship."

Jneidi concluded with a call to abolish "discriminatory laws against women and to support their status legally."

Abdul Rahim Omar, a renowned poet and advocate of political rights, said his election campaign revolved around democracy and public freedoms in Jordan, the economic crisis in the country and ways to solve it as well as the status of Jordanians of Palestinian origin in the Kingdom.

Masri called for developing the performance of parliamentarians and establishing effective centres to complement their quest to realise objectivities and facilitate their performance.

Second District candidates slug it out over democracy, freedoms and martial law

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN SAUDI ARABIA

A- Medical Delegate

- 1- B.Sc. in Biology, Chemistry or Nutrition.
- 2- 3 years minimum experience with a major Pharmaceutical or Nutritional company.
- 3- Valid driving license.
- 4- Good command of English.

B- Marketing Supervisor

- 1- B.Sc. in Marketing.
 - 2- Excellent command of English.
 - 3- Valid driving license.
- Experience is an advantage.

C- Administrative Supervisor

- 1- B.Sc. in Business Administration.
- 2- 2 years minimum experience in commercial administration and correspondence.
- 3- Excellent command of English.

Send your applications to: P.O. Box 6246, Amman, Jordan.

Include:

- 1- C.V. plus copies of University diplomas.
- 2- DETAILED description of work experience.
- 3- Full address and telephone number.

Last date to apply: 31-10-89.

Jordan Times

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Editorial Director:
RAKAN AL MAJALI
Director General:
DR. RADI AL WAQFI
Editor-in-Chief:
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

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The good old hide and seek

A LOT of water has flown under the bridge since the kick-start that the PLO gave to Middle East peace efforts by switching to moderation, but very little appeared to have been washed away. The situation remains very much the same in the so-called Middle East peace process. Israel has not moved an inch from its rejection of Palestinian rights, has ruled out any return of the occupied territories, has dug in its heels against dealing with the PLO, and has warned the U.S. to stay put and refrain from applying any pressure. The PLO, having seen a watershed in the American move to open a dialogue, tagged along in the bandwagon, proposing fresh ideas and formulas but without circumventing the fundamental demand that there cannot be a settlement without the creation of an independent Palestinian state, but only to receive a kick in the face. Apparently, the docility that characterised the PLO position encouraged Washington to pick up from Israeli schemes and seek to convince the Palestinians that the Israeli version of a settlement was the best for all concerned. When faced with the Palestinian rejection of the idea, the U.S. cast off the mask and showed its real colours by telling the PLO that the Israeli plan aimed at "self-rule" was the only game in town and the Palestinians could join in or leave the court. Above all, Secretary of State James Baker is fooling no-one that his "threat" to call off his "initiative" is aimed at all parties in the Middle East conflict rather than the PLO alone.

Where does the Arab World stand now? Keep hoping that the intifada will turn fiercer and bring about fundamental changes in Israeli thinking, and by extension, in the American approach? Prepare for a military showdown with Israel and hope it would shake the status quo? Leave it to the PLO to think about new strategies and plans to inject fresh life into peace efforts? Wait for a solution to be in place in Lebanon before thinking about the Palestinians?

No matter how one looks at the situation, it is clear that a practical formula to resolve the conflict is non-existent and will remain so as long as the basic fibres of Israeli thinking are shaken and renewed to absorb and accept that peace is contingent upon the recognition of the full political rights of the Palestinian people on their land. The Israeli decision-makers are not yet ready to accept it. And it is doubtful whether they would ever be, given the encouragement and support that they are getting from their allies.

Obviously, the ingredient that appears not to have administered in its proper dosage in the Middle East peace process is Arab action to boost the PLO's efforts. Is it too much to expect the Arab World to tell Israel's allies that it is no longer tolerable to see the Palestinians being made to dance to the Israeli tunes? And that their relations with the Arab World could be on the firing line if they do not come out forcefully and tell their proteges to abandon intransigence and bow to international legitimacy or else?

Such an Arab message could only come through a meeting of Arab leaders of the highest level; and it is time they put their heads together and raise above individual interests to tell the world in clear, unambiguous terms that any party who supports the Israeli argument and claims in the West Bank and Gaza stands to risk their ties with the Arab World. The message should indeed be coupled with practical action. Until and unless the Arab World is ready to follow such a course of action, the world stands to see more and more of the hide-and-seek game where no-one knows who is the seeker and what is being sought.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

King Hussein's statement to the British Broadcasting Corporation and his lecture at Oxford University constitute the theme of editorials in Sunday's Arabic dailies.

Al Ra'i noted that the King's words were clearer than ever before in matters concerning the domestic front and with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The paper referred to the King's continued emphasis on the need for a just and lasting solution for the Palestine problem, and Jordan's continued support for the Palestinian people's rights. The paper also referred to the King's statement on current endeavours to restructure the national economy and the Kingdom's return to parliamentary life which will boost policies on the domestic and external fronts. The paper particularly stressed the King's words in which he said that Jordan will not negotiate with Israel on behalf of the PLO and can never abandon its policy of trading peace for land. Jordan will maintain its national unity behind its leader and will forge ahead with greater confidence to elect deputies for the coming parliament which will no doubt give impetus to the King's endeavours at all fronts, the paper said.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the Lebanese question in the light of Sunday's expected meeting in Jeddah between King Fahd and the Lebanese parliament members who have been trying to thrash out differences over a unified and secure formula for peace in their country. Mahmoud Rimawi says that following Saudi Arabia's endeavours to bring about a consensus and an agreement, the King is expected to crown the efforts by presiding over the signing of a national charter to pave the way for peace. The writer says that it will be a happy ending for tortuous and thorny talks handled by the deputies with the help of Arab leaders. Rimawi says the fact that the deputies have met means that they are keen on preserving the unity and territorial integrity of their country; and their discussions have proved that they are truly and seriously concerned with ending the ordeal of their countrymen. The writer says with the success of these efforts, one can only conclude that democracy in Lebanon is and will always remain as alive as ever despite the devastation and the untold sufferings of its people.

Israel's assault on Palestinian education

By Matthew Carr

AS ISRAELI schools and universities return to normal after the summer vacation, the Palestinian educational structure in the occupied territories is still reeling from the successive blows dealt to it by the military authorities as a result of the intifada. On July 31 the military suddenly announced the reopening of preparatory schools and sixth form high school classes in the West Bank, thus ending the most sustained and damaging set of closures that the Palestinian school system has suffered since the beginning of the occupation.

Altogether over 15 months had been lost from the previous two academic years as a direct result of the blanket closures ordered by the military. In Gaza, where the preponderance of UNRWA schools made it more difficult politically to introduce wholesale closures, the military targeted individual schools instead. Although less uniform, the consequences in terms of lost time have been nearly as severe as in the West Bank, with 25 schools closed in the Gaza Strip during the last academic year for periods ranging from two weeks to four months, and many others affected because of curfews imposed on camps and villages.

The decision to reopen the schools came in the wake of fierce local and international criticism of Israeli actions and has been hailed by Palestinian teachers and educationalists as a significant victory. Within the beleaguered Palestinian educational establish-

ment, however, there remains considerable anxiety and pessimism about the future, since there is no guarantee that the schools will not be closed again. And the task of restoring administrative and educational normality to the school system is further undermined by the fact that the five universities in the occupied territories are still indefinitely closed.

Israeli disruption: a fact of life

Israeli disruption of the Palestinian educational process has been a fact of life of the occupation, but the latest round of closures has pushed the educational system to the verge of breakdown. In addition to closing the schools, the army has engaged in a systematic campaign of harassment and persecution of both teachers and students, in the belief that they provide the intifada with its activist core. Since the beginning of the uprising hundreds of teachers and thousands of students have been arrested; many have been held in administrative detention and some deported. In Nablus' Al Najah University alone, over 1,000 students have been arrested since the intifada began, out of a total campus population of 4,500. Occasionally Israeli paranoia concerning educated Palestinians has reached absurd proportions, such as the case of the biology lecturer from Bethlehem University who was given six months' administrative detention last year for instructing villagers on how to grow vegetables.

The systematic persecution of students and intellectuals has been a hallmark of all oppressive

regimes but the shut-down of an entire education system has few parallels in the modern era. As usual Israel has justified actions on "security" grounds, despite the fact that there has been no reduction in the level of nationalist activity as a result of the closures. The security rationale appears even more bogus in the light of the Israeli army's attempts to stamp out "popular education" — holding of small classes in mosques, fields, private homes and even cars that sprang up as a response to the closures. Not only has the army raided houses where popular education classes were believed to be held, and forbidden distribution of self-study packs by UNRWA, but soldiers have even searched children in the street for school-books.

Punishing the intifada

Most Palestinians have concluded that the real motive behind the closure policy is to punish the whole population for its participation in the intifada and wear down its will to continue. Like other measures taken to suppress the uprising, the closure policy has had the opposite effect: the pursuit of education is now seen as a conscious act of political resistance. "Education is part of our battle against the enemy," explained a student from East Jerusalem, "it's not just education for its own sake."

However, there is no doubt that the closures have inflicted serious damage on Palestinian education. Teachers complain that their pupils have undergone a process of "de-education" as a result of their enforced absence

from the classroom, with younger pupils in particular losing much of their literacy. Many schools have therefore been obliged to repeat the syllabus, which has made it difficult, if not impossible, to absorb the new intake of pupils into already overcrowded classrooms. In order to make up for lost time, most of the previous year's syllabus has had to be crammed into only three months. And the economic consequences of the intifada have forced many students to drop out of full-time education in order to help support their families.

The private schools have suffered too: many have been pushed to the verge of bankruptcy by the loss of tuition fees, and others have had their premises and equipment badly damaged after being used by the military as temporary detention centres. While most private schools have done their best to honour teachers' contracts, many teachers in government schools have been paid irregularly, or have been forced to accept prolonged leave without pay. The financial hardships of the teachers have been further compounded by the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar, which has reduced the value of salaries almost by half.

The impact of popular education

One positive development over the last 20 months has been the emergence of popular education, and the network of clandestine classes in camps, towns and villages throughout the occupied territories. At first the work was carried out mainly by students

and activists within the teaching profession, but when it was realised that the closures were likely to be indefinite, teachers began to build up home study materials and to involve parents in teaching and writing. In the absence of Israeli military censors, teachers were able to develop a more nationalist curriculum, especially in history and geography.

As successful as popular education has been as an act of defiance, its educational impact is more difficult to quantify. There is a general consensus amongst those involved that it has forged stronger links and a sense of common purpose between students, teachers and parents. In the highly politicised atmosphere of the intifada, the traditional relationship between teachers and pupils based on teacher authority has begun to change and teachers have had to become more responsive to the demands of the self-confident, militant generation which is spearheading the uprising.

"The character of the students has changed," according to one teacher from the West Bank; "they feel themselves to be the heroes of the streets now." But, even the strongest supporters of popular education have never advocated it as an alternative to the existing system. With the partial reopening of the schools the emphasis is once again on obtaining concrete qualifications. Yet many teachers feel a sense of fulfilment in working through the traditional syllabus when there are no universities for their pupils to go on to.

Apart from a minuscule

amount of clandestine teaching carried on at great risk to both teachers and students, there has been no academic activity on any of the five campuses since January 1988. Research, with a few exceptions, has come to a halt, since professors are denied access to books and equipment, and the 18,000 students currently enrolled in the universities are faced with a seemingly indefinite wait to complete their education. However, neither students nor teachers have been idle and most universities have developed stronger links with the surrounding community. "Our students are more than students now," said a lecturer from Al Najah, "they are community leaders. They are taking charge of everything, from food distribution to electricity." The longer the universities remain closed, however, the greater the likelihood of administrative chaos when they eventually reopen. In the meantime the growing pool of high school graduates waiting to enroll has little choice other than to seek unskilled work in Israel or try to study abroad.

For a people as fiercely proud of their educational achievements as the Palestinians, the deliberate damage done to their education system has been one of the most painful blows inflicted by the Israelis during the intifada. There are widespread fears that unless full administrative and educational continuity is established immediately, the damage will become permanent and an entire generation will have been forced to forfeit its future — Middle East International, London.

Pravda gets new editor — Gorbachev's aide

By John-Thor Dahlburg
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The millions of Soviets who see the world through the dense gray pages of the Communist party daily Pravda were told Friday their newspaper had a new chief, a reformist philosopher who has worked as a top aide to Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The appointment of Ivan T. Frolov, 60, as Pravda's editor seems to consolidate the Soviet president's grip on the flagship party daily, which has noticeably lagged behind other official newspapers in printing the sort of eye-opening criticism encouraged by the Kremlin's campaign for glasnost, or more openness.

As Pravda's circulation, pegged this month at 9.3 million subscribers, has sagged, that of more feisty and irreverent publications like Ogonyok and Arguments and Facts Soared. In consequence, the influence on public opinion of the party's most authoritative newspaper was visibly on the wane.

A joke shows the current popular view of the newspaper founded by Bolshevik leader Vladimir I. Lenin in 1912 as an instrument to overthrow the Russian czar, and whose name means "truth."

"There's no truth in Pravda," goes the joke, referring to the Soviet government's evening pap-

er whose name means "the news." And, the joke continues, "there's no news in Pravda."

Frolov, erstwhile editor of the party theoretical monthly Journal Kommunist, replaces Viktor G. Afanasyev, 66, a white-haired holdover from the era of Leonid I. Brezhnev who had served as Pravda's editor-in-chief for 13 years.

Western sources identify the Russian-born graduate of Moscow University's philosophy department as Gorbachev's personal adviser on ideological matters. Frolov is also reputed to be the country's top biomedical ethicist.

In the 1960s, he criticized Stalin's benchmark, biologist Trofim Lysenko, for waging an ideological witchhunt against colleagues that led to the exile, torture and death of many talented Soviet scientists.

In the 1970s, however, Frolov reportedly fell from favour because of his reformist views. He was rehabilitated after Gorbachev became Soviet leader in 1985.

Frolov's latest appointment was made by the ruling party politburo and announced by Pravda in a page one report on the politburo's Thursday meeting. The report was also read on state-run television Thursday night.

A Pravda worker said by telephone Friday that Frolov had not

yet started work. Gorbachev was expected to go to the paper's headquarters — on Pravda street in northwestern Moscow — to personally present Frolov to the staff, the worker said.

Afanasyev, who was the No. 1 journalist in the Soviet pecking order by virtue of his position as Pravda's chief editor and chairman of the official union of journalists, had spoken out for glasnost, once complaining there were still "restricted zones" where coverage wasn't permitted.

But he still favoured keeping government processes under strong Communist party control, rejected the notion that there should be competing political parties and warned against allowing criticism of Communist policy to go too far.

His clout as Pravda editor was considerable — he once revealed to reporters that he was permitted to attend meetings of the country's supreme body of power, the politburo. But under his tutelage, Pravda printed the same terse TASS bulletins on the politburo's doings that appear in every other Soviet paper, and little more.

Frolov has been working as an assistant to Gorbachev, the party's general secretary, the official TASS news agency said in a brief



biographical note. In that post, Soviet sources say, he helped author a major change in the philosophical underpinnings of Kremlin foreign policy.

For decades, the Soviets were ideologically committed to aiding

the worldwide class struggle, but in 1987 — presumably due to Gorbachev's impetus — they proclaimed instead their adherence to "universal human values," meaning they would cooperate with regimes they once regarded as enemies.

Frolov, a doctor of philosophical sciences, headed the journal Questions of Philosophy in 1977-86 and has been chairman of the nation's Philosophical Society since 1987, the same year he became an aide to Gorbachev.

He served as chief editor of Kommunist in 1986-87, watershed years in the elaboration of party doctrine when the Gorbachev-era policies of glasnost and perestroika, or reconstruc-

tion, were being hammered out and put to practical use.

Frolov is a member of the party's policy-making central committee and its ideological commission, and a member of the prestigious Soviet Academy of Sciences department of law and philosophy. He also has a seat in the new Soviet parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies.

Western references report Frolov was a philosophy student at Moscow State University in 1953, the same period the future Raisa Gorbachev was enrolled there to study the same subject.

Gorbachev, the son of a southern Russian peasant, was in the university's law school at the time.

Rewriting Soviet history

By Ann Imse
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Alexander Solzhenitsyn's long-banned chronicle of Soviet prison camps and political repression, "The Gulag Archipelago," is now recommended reading in at least one 11th-grade Moscow history class.

As recently as last year, high-school history textbooks made no mention of dictator Josef Stalin's mass repressions. In 1989, the new 10th-grade text states: "Tentative estimates put the total number of deaths in the repressions at about 40 million people."

Glasnost, or openness, is re-

writing Soviet textbooks. In June 1988, educators were ordered to cancel secondary school history exams because the tests would have required parroting of Communist Party dogma at odds with dramatic revelations in the press about the nation's recent past.

A prodigious effort began to rewrite Soviet history, and the editors' work has begun appearing in classrooms.

The inclusion of Solzhenitsyn's work on a recommended reading list is a portent of how quickly barriers are falling. The first portions of this documentary study were published in a Soviet magazine in August. The full book has yet to appear.

A teacher's guide produced by the Moscow city education committee charges that Stalin imprisoned millions of people because his crash industrialisation prog-

ramme required that workers move to harsh environments.

Since there weren't enough volunteers, "there appeared dozens of camps in the necessary places with hundreds of thousands of prisoners," the guide says.

"Back in 1974, when Leonid Brezhnev was in power, a 10th-grade history text described the 1930s as a period of rapid industrialisation, rife with victories for labour."

Inmates "were turned into a mute labour force, requiring practically no expenses, easily commanded and easily transferred," it continues. At least 5 million people had their property confiscated and were shipped off to Siberia and other remote places.

The book admits that "whole regions died" in famines during the early 1930s, caused by Stalin's forced collectivisation of farms. "We don't know the exact number of deaths caused by the authorities," the book says. "Western scientists estimate 3 to 10 million people."

Back in 1974, when Leonid Brezhnev was in power, a 10th-grade history text described the 1930s as a period of rapid indus-

trialisation, rife with victories for labour.

It says Stalin "repressed" — a word used to mean imprisoned or killed in the purges — those who favoured preparation for war, including five directors of army intelligence. It notes that on June 22, 1941, when German troops invaded Russia, many Soviet border guards had the day off.

"This mistake in calculating the time of the attack resulted in great loss of life," the textbook says.

The new book's condor in describing the purges and the terrible price exacted by Stalin's belief that Adolf Hitler would never attack the Soviet Union has startled adults, accustomed to dull recitations of the party line.

"If they wrote this five years ago, they would be in a camp," said one former political prisoner, who asked not to be identified by name.

But teaching the real past still poses risks. Just last spring, according to the ex-prisoner's son, a civics teacher disappeared from his eighth-grade class after using recent magazine articles to teach about Stalin's repressions, even though officials had advised teachers to do so.

"He was the first guy who wanted us to really know the history of our country," the 15-year-old said. "The new teacher went back to rote memorizing."

The rush to rewrite history has left today's high school students with a strange mixture of old and new texts.

"Our journalists are continuously publishing new information about our history, but textbooks must be finished and released for school," said Alexander Samsonov, history editor for the education publishing house in Moscow.

That leaves him in the difficult position of figuring out which reports are sufficiently supported both by facts and politicians for presentation to students, he said. The new 10th-grade history text walks a fine line between Western and traditional Soviet versions of the events that triggered World War II.

What the Baltic republics consider a Soviet invasion of their countries is explained with the euphemism, "Soviet power was restored in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia."

The book does not state that the Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact of 1939 divided the Baltics and Poland into Soviet and Nazi spheres of influence, as a Kremlin official only recently admitted.

But the textbook does say the treaty "was unjust because it took place behind the back of the Polish people."

The textbook acknowledges there were "abuses of power and violations of law" in the Baltics, but doesn't explain that tens of thousands of Baltic residents were deported to camps in the frozen wastelands of Siberia and the far north. Estonia's government is now considering paying damages to the victims and their families.

OPEN FORUM

Promises...promises...

My little son, sitting next to me
While driving home from the nursery
Too young to read, old enough to see
What are those flying words, daddy
I looked around then up: He said
The words up there in black and red
He pointed up for my eyes to meet
Tens of them across the street
Dad, please what do they say?
Are they for real, or for play?
For real, I said, my dearest son
They're elections to be lost and won
Dad, he said, please read out loud
I read and read and he felt proud
Of a father who could really read
Dad, for all of this is there a need?
I tried to explain
But it went in vain
What does a three-year old know
He's never seen such colourful show
He didn't understand a word I said
It bored him still, he asked for bed
With innocent words he exclaimed
Those promises don't, as you explained
How many of them can one make?
How many of them will one break?
Perhaps some, perhaps a few
Frankly son, I wish I knew

M. N. (John) Smecher

Reflections on a special relationship

By Philippa Neave

DUBLIN — When the 86 participants from 13 Western European and 12 Arab parliaments came together recently in Dublin for the annual meeting of the Euro-Arab parliamentary dialogue, expectations were high for particularly dynamic exchange of views.

Few were disappointed. Several new factors converged to make the 15th anniversary of the dialogue memorable: an Egyptian delegation participated for the first time since 1979, headed by the president of the People's Assembly; Libya and Finland joined as new members, and attendance both on the European and Arab side was impressive, not only in terms of the large numbers of countries represented, but also in terms of the high rank of the participants.

Developments in the Middle East since the last meeting held in Rabat in 1988 provided for a full agenda, including the Palestine question and the creation of two major regional groupings — the Maghreb Arab Union and the Arab Cooperation Council.

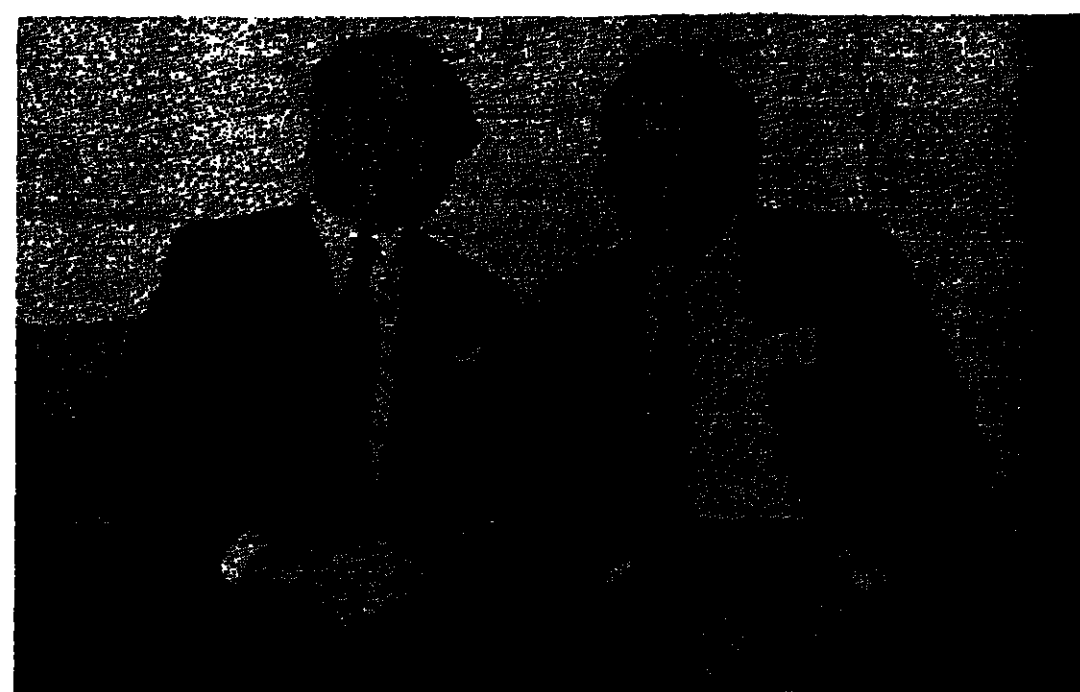
Sponsored by the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation (PAEAC), an organisation including 650 parliamentarians from throughout Western Europe, the meeting was also attended by members of Arab Parliaments grouped in the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU).

creation between the two regions. Ireland will "do everything to see that the Euro-Arab dialogue is revived," Mr. Collins noted. Already Ireland has strong economic ties to the Middle East where it exports meat, livestock and dairy products; it also has political ties to many Arab countries and is actively involved in Lebanon where an Irish contingent from the U.N. peace-keeping force is stationed. Ireland's political position has been seen by some of its 11 EEC partners as more forward than theirs. Outspoken on the Palestine question, the foreign minister said: "Our hope is now that the Palestinian state will become a reality as a result of an international conference under U.N. auspices and with the direct participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation whose role in representing the Palestinians we have recognised."

These views were echoed by participants at the meeting in their joint communiqué issued at the end of the session: "The next step should be the recognition of the Palestinian state by all the European countries," it said. "They (proposed elections) can only be meaningful if they are seen as a first step in a genuine peace process."

Commented Jacques Roger-Machart, chairman of the PAEAC and a leading member of France's ruling Socialist Party: "Everything now revolves around the election plan. The international conference Europe has called for and an active European role (in the peace process) now seems a little further away."

"If these elections are conducted in a free and democratic fashion, they could be the beginning of a process that needs to be encouraged," the 49-year-old M.P. explained in a recent interview. "What is shocking is the Israeli reaction to President Mubarak's (recent peace) proposals," he added. "They have divided the Israeli cabinet... The Mubarak plan has revealed the hypocrisy and ambiguity of the Likud



Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins and PLO delegate Khaled Al Hassan at the recent Euro-Arab conference in Dublin.

(Israeli right wing ruling party). Where Europe can play a useful role is in providing support for the Mubarak plan."

Asked about the prospects of European cooperation with the newly formed Maghreb Arab Union (MAU) set up in early 1988 between Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia, Roger-Machart explained: "The MAU is a natural and desirable partner for Europe; we hope to see it turn into a more concrete economic entity. For the time being it is still young and remains more a reflection of a political will than something concrete. The ball is in MAU's camp and we can remain attentive to its projects. I believe that if MAU members agree on one or several large infrastructure projects, Europe as a whole, or individual nations, will respond with investments and technology."

EEC serves as an example

"The success of the construction of the EEC serves as an example to the MAU and is an argument in favour of its establishment. All contacts and exchanges that can increase solidarity among the Maghreb nations should be encouraged. The EEC must see the MAU as an entity and a regional market."

While European politicians have often pointed out that the MAU would probably be plagued by the potentially volatile behaviour of Libya, Roger-Machart

remains optimistic: "In the past Libya's attempts at bilateral partnerships seemed more motivated by circumstances and politics. Now there seems to be a genuine desire for a joint policy based on political, geographical and economic realities. It seems that Libya is moving towards greater pragmatism, as we have seen with the recent agreement to end the conflict in Chad."

According to Roger-Machart, the MAU is off to an auspicious start. Morocco is very determined to build the Greater Arab Maghreb, he noted, while Algeria's president seems determined to bring a peaceful liberalisation, and Tunisia is now led by a modern, dynamic president. "I think all the conditions are there to make this work. What remains to be done is to turn the political will into pragmatic action."

Commenting favourably on the creation of MAU, meeting participants pointed out that sizeable projects such as the construction of a railway network to facilitate communications between Europe, the Maghreb, the Middle East and Africa can only be undertaken by groups of countries, cooperation being essential. In this case, Western Europe would provide the know-how and technology while Arab countries would bring in manpower and much of the investment. The picture is not as clear for the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) set up in 1988 and comprising Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen,

Roger-Machart said. "ACC seems motivated by political circumstances more than economic and geographic realities. I feel a little unsure of its future and of its capacity to get organised. But if it can give birth to a lasting regional entity, it could be the beginning of a larger grouping that could include a reconstructed Lebanon, an independent Palestinian state and perhaps even Israel."

Prospects for the ACC clearly hang on the solving of the conflicts that continue to plague the region, Roger-Machart stressed. "When political conditions come together and the conflicts are solved, there is a great potential that economic factors will consolidate peace. Economically the ACC countries are complementary: Iraq has oil but its economy was ruined by the (recently ended) Gulf war; Egypt is competent, has the know-how and a huge labour force, and it can work through Jordan and North Yemen to help Iraq rebuild and bring all the partners together."

As most of the other parliamentarians at the Dublin meeting, Roger-Machart expressed concern over the threat posed by Lebanon's 13-year-old civil war and applauded the recent cease-fire achieved after months of work by a tripartite commission set up by the Arab League and comprising Morocco, Algeria and Saudi Arabia. "Through its support for the commission's efforts, the Euro-Arab Parliamentary dialogue contributed to making the situation progress," he said.

Starved of news

After a literacy campaign in the 1970s, Tanzania has achieved a literacy rate of over 70 per cent. But most of the country's rural poor cannot get newspapers.

By Herald Tagama

SINGIDA, Tanzania: "There are neither newspapers nor radios here," says 40-year-old peasant farmer Stephen Sijuu. "We are held incommunicado. When you write about us, tell the authorities to bring us newspapers and affordable radios."

Sijuu says radio sets are too expensive for most people he knows and newspapers do not reach his village of Mirungu, some 30 kilometres (19 miles) north of the central Tanzanian town of Singida.

He last read a newspaper six months ago because farming work has prevented him from visiting the town since then. "I got it by accident," he says. "It was half-ton but I thoroughly read the bit that was left. It was riveting."

In Tanzania, newspapers are exclusively for townfolk. They may take up to a week to reach up country urban readers but they rarely penetrate to the villages.

Said Juma Makota who lives in a village 60 kilometres south-west of the capital, Dar es Salaam: "Newspapers are like gold, they are so scarce."

Villagers are hampered from obtaining newspapers because of inadequate transport services. Even an avid reader cannot make the round trip in one day.

Distribution to urban areas is also hindered by the transport problem but copies in circulation are completely inadequate to satisfy the 85% of Tanzania's 23 million population who live in rural areas, many of whom be-

came readers as a result of vigorous literacy campaigns in Tanzania in the 1970s.

National papers have limited circulations. Uhuru (Freedom), the daily of the ruling party, distributes 90,000 copies while the government-run Daily News and Sunday News sell 50,000 and 60,000 copies respectively.

Mfanyakazi (The Worker), a trade union paper, has a circulation of 41,000 while the church-owned bi-monthly Kiongozi (Leader) reaches sales of 103,000 copies.

Efforts to remedy the situation and bring more information to the countryside have met with limited success. Even the 15-year-old Rural Press Project (RPP) has done little to quench the rural dwellers' thirst for information. Availability is not the only problem. Content is also a contentious issue.

Wilson Karuwesa, the RPP's southern co-ordinator, argues that papers sent to villages are dominated by sycophantic reports of the activities of the country's leaders and neglect the contribution of the common people to rural development.

Accused of this, Ferdinand Ibaraza, RPP's national co-ordinator, says that reporters have to keep in with leaders since they are the only ones able to provide transport to the villages. He insists that it is poor transport which stops reporters and distributors getting to the villages. So good stories in the provinces go unwritten and papers undistributed.

Lack of training of journalists — to inculcate a nose for news

Easing Panama's bottleneck

WHEN completed in 1914, the American-built Panama Canal was rightly hailed as a major engineering achievement. But it has long since been unable to cope with the demands of modern shipping, especially giant super-tankers.

Even for those vessels that can

still use it, passage through the canal, with its three sets of locks, is a slow process. Larger ships have no option but to round Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America.

Inevitably, therefore, increasing consideration has been given to providing alternative inter-ocean links which would by-pass the Panama bottleneck. However, given the politics of the region, it is not surprising that the choice of options may not be governed entirely by practical, technical considerations.

In 1982, the United States, Japan and Panama agreed to study the problem. After the Americans, the Japanese are the biggest users of the present canal.

But for more than two years now the work of a tripartite commission has been increasingly paralysed by the growing rift between the U.S. and Panama. In fact, the latest actions of General Antonio Noriega, Panama's de facto ruler, have led to a complete break in relations between the two countries.

Apart from other differences, Washington has accused Noriega of amassing considerable wealth as a middleman in the illegal drug trafficking of Bolivia's cocaine barons.

Because of the commission's difficulties in reaching a decision whether to widen the existing waterway or build a new, sea-level canal — obviating the need

for locks — other Central American countries have sought to take advantage of the situation.

Costa Rica and Honduras are arguing the case for rail links between the Caribbean and Pacific coasts. But interest is now focused mainly on creating a new canal in Nicaragua.

A private Japanese group is said to be actively considering a \$25 billion project for a 220-kilometre waterway which would take ships of up to 250,000 tonnes. Only 20 kilometres at the Pacific end would have to be excavated as the route would take advantage of the San Juan river and Lake Nicaragua.

The plan also envisages establishing a model city at the Pacific entrance. This would be a free port and an industrial, commercial and scientific centre.

Naturally, Nicaragua's extreme Left Sandinista regime is eager for such a large-scale and prestigious project to go ahead.

The Nicaraguans say that although they would wish to have a 51 per cent stake, they envisage the venture as a multi-national one in which U.S. interests would be welcome to play a part.

Nicaragua's Finance Minister, William Hopper, who is heading a committee which is liaising with the Japanese group, has said that various ideas relating to the project will be discussed at a conference in Managua next March.

— Lions features.

Euro-Arbitration system — setting new standards

Since 1982, European and Arab commercial representatives have been busy evolving a mutually respected system of arbitration for trade disputes. Mushtak Parker reports that, given the reluctance of companies to submit to litigation under the laws of other countries, the Euro-Arbitration System is becoming increasingly widely accepted.

Commercial disputes between European companies and their Arab and Muslim counterparts — very often a bitter experience for both in the past — is likely to be resolved increasingly through arbitration rather than conventional litigation. This is thanks to the emergence of the Euro-Arab Arbitration System which is now accepted in general by all Arab countries in preference to the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Court of Arbitration and other arbitral systems.

In fact, according to Andrew Clarke, a partner in the London solicitors firm of Allen and Overy, and an arbitration special-

ist, discussions within the London-based Islamic World Business Forum on forming a system of arbitration specifically tailored for Muslim businessmen have taken place. "A working party was established by Tariq Hassan, who, unfortunately for us, left to take up a prestigious post with the World Bank in Washington. Setting up such a system perhaps is over-ambitious. At this stage I would urge the Forum to set its sights on some form of conciliation procedure to which disputes could be referred."

Many non-Arab Muslim businessmen regret the fact that the Euro-Arab System is con-

fined only to disputes between European-based and Arab-based parties. They concur with their Arab colleagues, however, that the ICC system is unsatisfactory when it comes to settling disputes involving a Muslim or a developing world party. The ICC system, they maintain, is weighted in favour of the Western party in terms of law, legal culture, location and neglect of considering other legal systems — such as the Islamic sharia code.

The Euro-Arab Arbitration System, relatively new but rapidly growing, continues to make an impact. It will get another boost in October in Jordan when the Third Euro-Arab Arbitration Congress is held from 23-25 October. The Congress is being organised by the Euro-Arab Higher Arbitration Board in Paris in cooperation with the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

Prominent speakers will in-

clude Hussein Al Baharna, Bahrain's minister of state for legal affairs, Gerold Hermann of the United Nations, and Britain's Lord Justice Michael Kerr, who is president of the London Court of International Arbitration — which is not in fact a court but yet another system of arbitration. Sessions will discuss intra-Arab arbitration developments, the progress in Euro-Arab commercial dispute settlement, and the impact of Western and U.N. models on international arbitration.

A senior Saudi lawyer, Salah Hejailan, who is also president of the Paris-based Higher Arbitration Board which oversees the Euro-Arab System, confirmed in London recently that a clause pertaining to recourse to the above arbitration system has been included in "hundreds of contracts" between Arab and European companies since the system started operations last year.

At a conference on "Commercial Arbitration under the Euro-Arab System" in London, recently organised by the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, Hejailan stressed that his board has launched a major plan aimed at further developing the system and promoting its activities both in Europe and the Arab World. The plan includes the launching of a membership programme aimed at in-house counsel and advisers to companies and multinationals; the holding of arbitration workshops; the publishing of a quarterly newsletter in Arabic, English and French; and the organising of mutual visits by businessmen from both sides. He confirmed that demand for arbitration was growing especially as the volume of Arab-European trade continues to increase.

When a British company has a dispute with, say, a Saudi party, then the two can initiate the

System by making an application to the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce's arbitration board, which will then process the application and forward it to Paris. A Greek company seeking arbitration will process its application through the Arab-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and so on.

The System was set up because of Euro-Arab Chambers of Commerce received numerous complaints from Arab members about other arbitration systems such as the ICC and the provisions under the New York Convention on Arbitration. These complaints entered on high costs, the remoteness of arbitration locations, unfamiliarity of the law of the country of the other party and a perceived bias in favour of the non-Arab party. Arab countries also resent the fact that they were not consulted when the New York convention and ICC rules were drawn up. The Middle East

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Soviets belittle perestroika

MOSCOW (R) — Most Soviet people have gained little from President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms, which they did not think would lead soon to major improvements, according to a poll published Sunday.

And in an interview published separately, a senior Soviet parliamentarian predicted that things could get worse unless the government radically restructured the nation's economy.

About 35 per cent of those polled in the outspoken weekly Ogonyok said the reforms would lead to insignificant improvements in the near future, 16 per cent said things would stay the same and 18.5 per cent said they would worsen.

Only 12 per cent said the perestroika programme of social, political and economic renewal — now in its fifth year — would lead to significant improvements.

The government, trying to juggle a large budget deficit with demands for more consumer

goods, plans to cut investment while increasing borrowing to buy foreign goods.

"The attempt to straddle two chairs will not succeed... the government's proposals are aimed only at a cosmetic overhaul of the command economy system," Gennady Filshin of the parliament's planning, budget and financial committee told the daily Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya.

He said the government should give more autonomy to enterprises, increase investment in training and education and do more to create a consumer market.

"If not, the chaos in financial management will get worse. And that of course will give rise to protests from the population about this attack on their basic rights," he said.

Ogonyok — usually among Gorbachev's most outspoken supporters — published the poll 10 days after the Soviet leader

criticised several of the country's senior editors for portraying the reforms to too gloomy a light.

Ogonyok did not say how many people had been questioned in the poll, carrying out in August and September in the Moscow-based National Centre for the Analysis of Public Opinion.

The poll — the first in a series of the magazine plans to run — reflects growing public frustration with persistent failure of the Kremlin's reforms to provide a higher standard of living.

Criticism of perestroika has increased in recent months over economic chaos and chronic shortages of everyday goods.

Almost 53 per cent of those polled said their material position had not improved in three years, 23.5 said it had worsened while only 24 per cent said it had improved.

Last week Gorbachev reportedly demanded the resignation of the editor of the mass-

circulation weekly Argumenty i Fakty after it ran a popularity poll based on readers' letters in which he was not mentioned while Communist Party radicals such as Boris Yeltsin scored highly.

There was more bad news for the economy Friday when ministers said runaway wage increases, strikes and ethnic conflicts meant it was still performing badly. In some areas production had slumped to below last year's levels.

In addition, transport bottlenecks were still delaying badly needed imported goods despite Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov's warning of strict action against rail and other transport heads.

The Communist Party daily Pravda reported Sunday that transport ministry workers had said one million tonnes of goods and more than 185,000 containers were standing idle and the problem has especially serious in Moscow and Leningrad.

Analysts examine effects of quake in San Francisco and, possibly, Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Asian investors still see property on the west coast of the United States as a great chance for profits, despite the San Francisco earthquake.

"It is hard to imagine a sharp decline in investments because of the disaster. It was not a total destruction of the city," said an official at Mitsui Trust and Banking, a major investor in real estate overseas.

Although the quake-prone area involves some risk, the value of property is unlikely to be affected in the long term, property analysts in Asia said.

"It is a matter of insurance," the Mitsui Trust official said. "As far as property is fully insured, there is no problem."

Japanese property investments in California in 1988 stood at \$5.62 billion, or 34 per cent of total Japanese real estate money in the United States, industry sources said.

Investments by Japanese in San Francisco and Oakland, two cities hit hard by Tuesday's earthquake, stood at \$740 million in 1988, the sources said.

Japan has an estimated \$3 billion in Los Angeles, which is also prone to earthquakes, analysts said.

"There will be no shift in our investment strategy because of the earthquake," said an official at Nippon Life Insurance. "If earthquakes were the factor, then investments in quake-susceptible Tokyo would also not be so active."

"None of our customers has expressed any concerns over their investments in the region so far," said an official at Mitsui real estate sales.

Hong Kong investors also were not worried about their purchases of property in California.

"The earthquake has always been in the back of people's minds... but people still seem to buy," said Paul Varty, managing director of property company Chesterton Petty in Hong Kong.

"Some people are arguing that now it's over people will in fact step up buying once again on the grounds lightning won't strike twice. But I don't know about that," he added.

"In downtown San Francisco there are literally dozens of buildings, especially hotels, owned or part-owned by Hong Kong investors, but I wouldn't even like to hazard a guess as to how much they're worth," a property analyst said.

With the United States attracting so much Taiwan money, the earthquake will probably not dampen enthusiasm on the island too much, analysts said.

The amount of Taiwan investment in U.S. real estate is impossible to estimate, as money is often transferred out of the island without the knowledge of the central bank, but it is huge, analysts in Taipei said.

Some Taiwan investors walk into real estate offices in the United States with suitcases full of cash and travellers checks, one analyst said.

"On the west coast, whenever

you mention Taiwan brokers, eyes light up," said Blair Pickrell, president of the Taiwan International Securities Corporation.

"Mentioning Taiwan is a magic word to get the top salesmen immediately."

"For the next month or two the earthquake will be a negotiating point to get prices down," said Wedy Lee, manager of the international division of realtors Pacific Rehouse in Taiwan.

"San Francisco has not been the most popular area because prices have been so high, but maybe this will change things," Lee said.

But more important than the earthquake is the fact that Japanese, Taiwan people and other Asian investors have billions of dollars to spend.

Even if investments slow momentarily, everyone will begin investing again when the disaster begins to fade from people's minds, many analysts said.

"After a few months everyone will forget it ever happened anyway and those who planned to invest on the west coast will go in and buy there," Lee said.

In another area, subterranean rumblings near Tokyo last summer have revived fears that a big earthquake here would send global financial markets crashing along with many of the Japanese capital's skyscrapers.

"The impact of such an earthquake would be felt around the world," said bond market analyst Marshall Gittler.

Increased seismic activity of late in the Izu Peninsula 140 kilometres southwest of Tokyo raised the spectre of a giant tremor like the one that laid waste the city in 1923.

Financial analysts said an earthquake of that magnitude would create chaos on world currency markets and cause the stock and bond markets in both the United States and Japan to crash along with Tokyo's skyscrapers.

The significance of Tokyo, the centre of Japan's financial, insurance, banking and telecommunications industries, should not be underestimated.

If the Tokyo area was an independent nation its gross national product (GNP) would be sixth biggest in the world, larger than that of Britain.

In 1985 the area accounted for 30 per cent of Japan's GNP — the total value of goods and services produced in the economy.

The great Kanto quake of 1923 measured 7.8 on the Richter scale, killing about 142,000 people and destroying 700,000 buildings.

An earthquake of the same magnitude in Tokyo today would kill 150,000 people, injure another 200,000 and destroy more than 800,000 buildings, the Japanese government has predicted.

This could cause Japanese life insurance firms to liquidate their massive holdings of U.S. bonds and stocks to pay off claims, analysts said.

Life insurers investment portfolios held about 14.3 trillion yen

(\$100 billion) in U.S. government bonds and stocks as of March, said Gittler of the Tokyo office of brokerage UBS Phillips and Drew International.

A large-scale sell-off of U.S. assets by Japanese insurers could send the U.S. bond and stock markets plunging, while driving U.S. interest rates sky high, analysts said.

As a result, the U.S. economy could slide into a recession, analysts at the Tokai Bank concluded in a study published earlier this year.

The study examines the damage an earthquake measuring 7.8 in Tokyo would cause now to world financial markets.

Tokai, which is in Nagoya, a safe 300 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, predicted that Japanese capital outflow would drop sharply as the country scrambled to rebuild the capital at an estimated cost of 119 trillion yen (\$850 billion). "A sharp decline in Japanese capital outflow would cause U.S. interest rates to rise, taking a significant toll on the growth of real GNP," the report said.

"U.S. markets would go through an incredible shock," said Matthew Berlow, an economist at Credit Lyonnais Laing and Crutick Securities in Japan.

"Just: the prospect that (the Japanese) wouldn't be big buyers at treasury auctions would push U.S. rates up," he noted.

Japanese life insurance firms, trust banks and securities houses routinely purchase 30 per cent of U.S. government securities auctioned by the U.S. Treasury.

A catastrophe earthquake would also throw the foreign exchange

markets into chaos.

The dollar would gyrate violently, first soaring as investors flocked to it as a safe-haven currency, and then tumbling as Japanese insurers dumped foreign assets, some analysts speculated.

"The yen would reach parity with the Italian lira," said Gittler.

The Italian lira trades at about 1,360 to the dollar, while the yen is around 140 to the dollar.

A major Tokyo earthquake "would send a shock to the financial markets. The dollar would go higher and that could hurt the U.S. trade deficit," said another analyst.

Computer and trading systems would fail, adding to mass confusion and panic, the Tokai Bank report said.

Tokyo stocks would collapse, with the possible exception of construction shares and stocks of food companies located outside of Tokyo, analysts said.

Japanese economic growth, too, would tumble into "negative territory," the Tokai Bank study said.

The world economy would however benefit from an increased demand for imports when Japan began to reconstruct.

"I think the Japanese would be rebuilding in record time. That would give the world economy a great shot in the arm," said Berlow at Credit Lyonnais.

Tokai Bank forecast that Japanese GNP growth would rebound to about 12 per cent in the year after a major Tokyo earthquake.

"It's a horror scenario that we hope will never happen," said Brian Waterhouse, analyst at James Capel Pacific in Tokyo.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

ACC ministers review labour issues

CAIRO (Petra) — Labour Minister Jamal Bdour, now in Cairo to attend the labour ministers' meetings of the four Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) states, Sunday said that the ACC labour ministers exchanged views on the activities of the four committees which were set up to work out the formula for unifying Arab labour legislations, social security, vocational training and the establishment of an integrated information system. In a statement to Petra following the opening session, Bdour said that the four ministers will work out a cooperation agreement and will draw up the executive steps to set up a data bank.

ACC insurers conclude talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Airline insurance directors and representatives of insurance companies in the four Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) states Sunday concluded their three-day meetings in Amman and decided on Cairo as the venue for their next meeting which will be held in March. The insurance directors discussed means of enhancing cooperation and coordination in the field of airline insurance. They identified three areas where cooperation should be enhanced. The areas include technical coverage and shared responsibility, ground services agreement and timing, and methods of dealing in the insurance markets.

MENARACA course opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Middle East-North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association (MENARACA) hosts a two-week regional training workshop in Cyprus Monday on administrative and financial regulations at agricultural credit corporations. Taking part in the workshop, which is organised in cooperation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), will be representatives from MENARACA's member states. Participants will debate methods of improving administrative performance, financial data systems, accountancy, financial planning and use of computers in financial transactions.

Bahrain plans to construct new port

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain plans to build a new port to cope with an expected increase in its trade and the growing use of large container ships, officials have said. An official who wished to remain anonymous said the port would cost between 50 and 100 million dinars (\$133-\$265 million) depending on the plan chosen and would be built over the next five to 10 years. "We think a new port with deeper channels is necessary... it will be able to handle large container ships, coping with an industry trend towards more containerised cargo," he said. "We also anticipate more imports for Bahrain in the coming years and more potential for exports," he added. Port officials say the amount of container cargo handled by the island's Mina Sulman port rose 10.7 per cent to 499,068 tonnes in first-half 1989 from the same period last year. Industry officials said a link between the port and a planned new industrial area had been proposed.

IBM reports lower earnings

ARMONK, New York (R) — International Business Machines (IBM) Corp. has said its third-quarter earnings dropped almost 30

per cent to \$877 million in what the computer giant termed a short-term lapse from its generally improved outlook. IBM had told analysts they were being too optimistic with estimates for unchanged or slightly higher earnings for the Ammonk, New York-based company. The earnings were 29.7 per cent below the \$1.25 billion IBM reported for the third quarter a year ago. Earnings per share dropped 28.1 per cent to \$1.51 from \$2.10. Revenue crept up 4.3 per cent to \$14.31 billion, below the first half gain of better than six per cent. The company blamed new product changeovers and a switch among customers to leasing from buying for hurting results. The strength of the dollar has hurt revenues from abroad.

Etisalat sets \$545m new spending

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) telecommunications firm Etisalat, the biggest joint-stock UAE company, plans new spending of two billion dirhams (\$545 million) in the next three years. Communications Minister Mohammad Said Al Mulla was quoted by Al Khaleej newspaper as saying \$177 million were allocated for this year and the rest in 1990/91. Mulla, also chairman of Etisalat, said projects included over 100,000 new telephone lines, facsimile services, and a ship to maintain marine cable connections, especially with India and Pakistan. Etisalat is the sole UAE telecom firm, 60 per cent owned by the government. It raised 1988 net profit 28 per cent to 669.9 million dirhams (\$181 million). Its shares on the UAE telephone market are quoted at over 600 dirhams (\$164), which puts it at a premium to the market generally, brokers said.

Lithuania restricts foreign tourism

MOSCOW (R) — Lithuania, one of the Soviet Union's wealthiest republics, has imposed entry curbs to stop visitors from East Europe carrying stores of food and other consumer goods. The official TASS news agency said a Lithuanian government order had limited visits to the Baltic republic to one a year on pre-arranged dates. The Lithuanian move also required visitors to change all their money into rubles at official banks. TASS quoted the Lithuanian government as saying the influx of tourists "negatively affects the supply of food and consumer goods to the local population and complicates an already difficult economic and political situation." Lithuania and the other Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia are the most prosperous in the country and stores are relatively well-stocked.

Iran wants tourists — not spies

NICOSIA (R) — Iran should encourage tourism to finance post-war reconstruction but every effort should be made to weed-out spies disguised as tourists, a Tehran newspaper has said. The Tehran Times said in an editorial carried by the national news agency IRNA that the authorities should do their best to make the tourist industry a success. But it warned of the negative consequences of an open door policy towards foreign visitors. "It is not meant to imply that tourism should be allowed to become the hand maiden of, or be put at the service of intelligence agencies and others who may wish to disfigure or subvert the cherished policies held sacrosanct by the Islamic republic." "This we should not allow," the paper which is close to the foreign ministry said.

Chinese leader becalms public over economy

PEKING (R) — China's Premier Li Peng has reassured his countrymen that the economy, after showing its worst performance in three-and-a-half years, is not headed for a tailspin.

He also vowed once again that Western economic pressure, though an added burden, would eventually be overcome.

"China's economy will not contract, despite what some Western economists say," the People's Daily quoted Li as saying.

"There are some Western nations that are pressuring us and applying economic sanctions," he told Thai Vice-Premier Bhaichai Rattakul during a meeting in Peking.

"But this will not have much impact. China has a great deal of ability to resist pressure," he said, expressing his thanks for friendlier policies adopted by Thailand.

Western nations have cut military cooperation and halted government credits to China since a bloody army crackdown on a pro-democracy campaign in June. Trade sanctions, however, have not been applied.

Li, a communist hardliner who has actively promoted an economic retrenchment policy begun 13 months ago, made the remarks ahead of a key meeting of the party's central committee.

The plenum, delayed by factional disputes over economic policy, is expected to be held late this month or in early November and will focus on mapping economic strategy.

"At the moment, our economy faces problems — the rate of growth has fallen and the market is soft," Li said. "But this is because we are rectifying our state enterprises and improving opportunities for providing even more varieties of goods."

China's industrial output rose a sickly 0.9 per cent in September over a year ago. That is down sharply from the 17.7 per cent rise in all of 1988 from the previous year.

Western economists said that if China wanted to avoid a contraction, it would have to expand credit, that was cut drastically under the austerity drive to hold once-rampaging inflation in check.

"They could avoid negative growth by pumping more cash into the system," said a Western economist.

Innab heads team for Arab economic talks

TUNIS (Petra) — Arab ministers of finance and economy and the executive directors of specialised Arab organisations will discuss in Tunis Monday the latest world economic developments, especially in the Arab World, and the achievements of the Arab League's specialised agencies during the year 1988.

During the four-day meetings, the ministers will focus on the issues pertaining to Arab food security in light of a report prepared by a special pan-Arab team which was entrusted with drawing a report on the subject.

An Arab League source has said that the ministers will also discuss the final report prepared by a nine-member ministerial Arab committee charged with implementing the resolutions of an extraordinary session on restructuring Arab League organisations.

Discussion will also cover the decisions and recommendations made by central bank governors, an Arab committee on investment encouragement and trade.

Representing Jordan at the meetings will be an official delegation led by Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Innab who

Ziad Innab will also head the Jordanian delegation to the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) meetings, due to start here Monday.

Innab and the accompanying delegation Sunday left for Tunis to take part in the meetings.

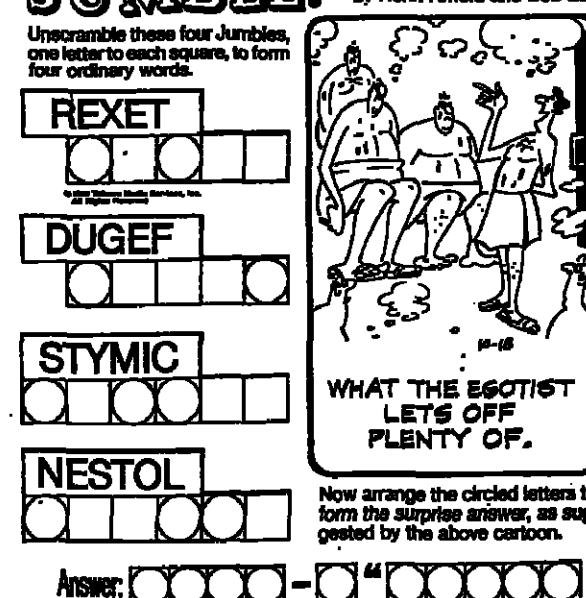
The AOID will discuss the director general's report on the organisation's activities and achievements, its biennial plan of action and budget in addition to cooperation with international specialised organisations.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"The first two chapters of my diet book taught me how to live on 300 calories a day. I ate the last three chapters."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Yesterday's Jumble: GUEST FLAKE BANISTER ELICIT
Answer: He drove as if he owned the road which is why he ended up not owning this — A LICENSE

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp



British jobless rate falls to 6%

LONDON (R) — Unemployment in Britain fell to 1.69 million people or six per cent in September, its lowest level for nine years, the government has said. But other figures released simultaneously brought fears of renewed rises in the cost of living.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday October 22, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	627.0	633.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	439.6	444.0
Pound Sterling	996.4	1006.4	Dutch guilder	286.8	301.8
Deutsche mark	337.5	340.9	Swedish crown	97.3	98.3
Swiss franc	385.2	389.1	Italian lira (for 100)	45.9	46.4
French franc	99.4	100.4	Belgian franc (for 10)	160.6	162.2

French soccer: Bordeaux extends lead

PARIS (R) — French soccer league leaders Bordeaux crushed last year's double winners Marseille 3-0 Saturday with two goals from Jean-Marc Ferreri and a third revenge effort from West German striker Klaus Allofs.

Allofs, released by Marseille against his wishes in the summer, put the finishing touch to a disastrous night for his former team when he profited from a muffed clearance by left-back Eric di Meo to seal victory 10 minutes from time.

Ferreri scored from the penalty spot after just seven minutes to get the home side off to a great start before more than 40,000 fans but missed a second spot kick after half an hour.

The international midfielder stoned with a spectacular volleyed goal in the 58th minute at a time when Marseille were piling

on the pressure and threatening to equalise.

Marseille were able to field all their four foreign stars, despite league rules limiting their number to three, because West German stopper Karlheinz Foerster received his French citizenship papers 24 hours before the game.

But his team mates may have wished he had not when he conceded the first penalty, grabbing Bordeaux striker Piet Den Boer by the arm as the Dutchman rose to head a Jean-Philippe Durand free kick.

Marseille keeper Gaetan Huard was responsible for the second when he pulled down Allofs who had burst through the defence.

Toulouse could manage no better than a goal-less draw away to bottom club Brest and fell to fourth place.

McEnroe, Lendl vie for million-dollar trophy

ANTWERP, Belgium (R) — Although Ivan Lendl is regarded as favourite for the richest indoor title in tennis, the organisers of the European Community Championship will be keeping a watchful eye on John McEnroe when the event begins Monday.

If McEnroe retains the Antwerp title, he will claim a diamond-studded one million-dollar gold racket on offer to anyone who wins here three times in five years.

Lendl won a similar trophy in 1985 after his third triumph, but the organisers — well aware the prize lured not only top players but also massive crowds — ordered another made.

Lendl pulled out in 1986 due to a hip injury — McEnroe won in his absence — but was back in 1987 to clinch his fourth victory. Last year, Lendl was not fully fit after surgery on his shoulder.

McEnroe won that final too but the former world number one, now ranked fourth, has an unlucky draw this time.

All the seeds have a first-round bye and McEnroe is likely to confront Frenchman Henri Leconte in the second round, followed by either Czechoslovak Miloslav Mecir or in-form American Aaron Krickstein.

If he survives those potentially hazardous clashes, the New Yorker faces a showdown with one of his compatriots, Tim Mayotte, or Brad Gilbert, winner of five tournaments this year.

Lendl can look forward to a considerably easier route to the final.

He faces a slightly tricky opening tie against Soviet Andrei Chesnokov, last year's runner-up, but the second match against Swiss Jakob Hlasek should pose no major threat.

German soccer: Bayern Munich loses

BONN (R) — Bayer Leverkusen leapt to the top of the West German soccer first division when they beat pacesetter Bayern Munich 1-0 Saturday, inflicting on the champions their first home defeat in the league in two years.

Polish international Marek Lesniak stunned a crowd of 29,000 at the Munich stadium when he scored after 15 minutes.

Cologne, who like Bayern, went into Saturday's games with 19 points and were second only on goal difference, also crashed at home, 3-1 to lowly Dusseldorf.

Bayern went all out for an equaliser but could not pierce the Leverkusen defence, the best in the league with only eight goals against in 14 matches.

Cologne, who beat Spartak Moscow 3-1 in a UEFA Cup game Wednesday, looked tired as they conceded three goals in the last quarter of an hour to end a nine-match unbeaten run.

Krickstein wins season's 3rd title

TOKYO (Agencies) — American Aaron Krickstein won his third grand prix singles title of the season Sunday when he took the Tokyo grand prix tennis tournament with a straight sets victory.

Krickstein, seeded fourth, played his usual solid baseline tennis to trounce West Germany's Carl-Uwe Steeb 6-2, 6-2 in 82 minutes.

"I feel great. This is the biggest win to date," the 22-year-old world number 10, who won the New South Wales Open in Sydney last January and the Los Angeles grand prix last month, said.

Krickstein, who had been plagued by a series of injuries since 1984, broke Steeb's service in the eighth game to win the first set in 27 minutes.

The American, who as a 16-year-old became the youngest player to win a grand prix event, then won the first and third games of the second set with brilliant service.

"I've been able to hit my backhand a lot better and a lot deeper since summer," Krickstein, the first American to win the Japan indoor tournament since Jimmy Connors defeated Ivan Lendl in 1984, said.

West German Davis Cup team member Steeb, who had won three of his four encounters against the American, made a succession of errors with his volleying.

"I didn't play my best. He

forced me to make mistakes and he forced me to be more aggressive. Even when I was approaching, he was passing very well," Steeb said.

Krickstein broke service in the second and fourth games of the first set, with Steeb often hitting wide or into the net.

Steeb broke back in the fifth game as Krickstein's playing became inconsistent.

In the eighth game, Steeb, a baseline player, stayed close to the net but after tying at 30-30, was long with two forehands and lost the set.

Rain threatens world series game

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Rain forced the San Francisco Giants to cancel practice Saturday and caused the Oakland Athletics to cut their short, and commissioner Fay Vincent admitted the world series might get called off, too.

"It's not likely, but it's possible," Vincent said in a 30-minute interview with the Associated Press. "We can't wait forever. We can't just tread water."

The national weather service forecast showers into early next week. Game 3 is tentatively set for Tuesday, following a week's layoff after a disastrous earthquake struck the Bay area.

Vincent said other factors — more than the storm system — would likely determine whether the series resumes.

If Candlestick Park is not certified as safe or if the mayors in San Francisco and Oakland are strongly against playing baseball, Vincent said, the series could be over.

"If it's not the right thing to do,

it will be cancelled," he said. "We will not move the series out of the Bay area. I can guarantee that."

The Oakland Athletics lead the Giants 2-0. City officials will inspect Candlestick Monday to see whether it is safe.

Vincent has not spoken to the local mayors since the tragedy — "they have more important things to do than worry about baseball," he said — and hoped to talk with them either Sunday or Monday.

While the Giants' morning practice was cancelled, the Athletics were able to practice shortly after noon. Candlestick usually gets worse weather than the inland Oakland coliseum, and

that's what happened this time. The rain stopped in Oakland early, but returned and halted the Athletics' session after only 45 minutes.

Manager Tony La Russa said the team would search for an indoor batting cage for workouts Sunday if it was raining again.

The Athletics and Giants had already waited through the longest delay between the end of the playoffs and start of the world series. Each team won in five games, giving Oakland a five-day break and San Francisco four days off.

After the earthquake, the players on both teams agreed the series should be delayed for a week in light of the devastation.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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JUST A LITTLE MISDIRECTION

Both vulnerable. West deals.
NORTH
♠ A Q 7 5
♥ 5
♦ K Q 8 6
♣ 10 2

EAST
♠ K 6 3 2
♥ J 10 8 4
♦ J 9 8 7
♣ A 3

SOUTH
♠ 4
♥ A K Q 10 4 3 2
♦ J 10 7 5
♣ 7 5

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠.
It doesn't require a "big lie" to fool the opponents. More often than not, looming danger can be as effective. This hand was played in a team match in Sweden.

South's void in his partner's suit limited the offensive potential of his hand. Still, with what looked like seven sure tricks, four hearts was certainly a reasonable bid. The auction at the two tables was identical.

The modern theory is to lead low from three cards in partner's bid suit if you didn't raise, so at one

table West led the three of clubs. Aware that a third round of clubs would give declarer a ruff-duff, East took two club tricks and then shifted to a diamond. The defenders took their book quickly, but that was all they got.

At the other table West decided to make the deceptive lead of the six of clubs. From East's point of view, the defense was simple. West surely held a trump higher than the five, and if he had only a doubleton club, as the lead suggested, that meant declarer had three and West would be able to score a trump.

Declarer treated the third round of clubs with great suspicion. After considerable thought, he decided he could afford to ruff with the ten, just in case. Wrong!

The ten of hearts held the trick, but West's fourth trump had been promoted to the setting trick. A seemingly impregnable hand had hit the dust. Although we salute West for his fine effort, we are inclined to fault declarer for the debacle. Assuming East has seven clubs, West rates to be long in trumps, so he is more likely to hold the jack. If he did indeed start with a doubleton club, the contract probably cannot be salvaged. Ergo, declarer should have ruffed low.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

All sorts of unusual conditions can cause you to get stirred up today but it's nothing that is going to mean a thing in the long run. Best that you keep you cool and don't over react to the actions of others.

ARIES: (March 20 to April 17) A woman will introduce you to a very interesting couple of different background. Joining with outside contacts now will please your attachment.

TAURUS: (April 18 to May 19) Open your house to entertain fellow neighbours now. Get an ally to help you where getting businessmen from your money is concerned.

GEMINI: (May 20 to June 20) A trip with a woman will aid you with your business plan of action. An argument at home now would destroy the harmony there.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) Being intemperate with your comments with your loved one would be most inadvisable. Now. Take care while on a jaunt with a friend of accidents.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Daily duties are now a drag to you but they just must be done. Discussing trips with your attachment will save some heated arguments.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Considerable activity at home can bring very productive results. Several persons will now be involved in your money matters.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) You now can see and be with the friends that you really do enjoy the most. Take on any necessary

conditions at home that can improve conditions there.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You will have to carefully discriminate in seeing friends today. A day for a very tender relationship with your loved one.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20) Many friends will invite you to interesting entertainment now. Your home should be where most interesting activity occurs.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 18) Keep promises made to an exacting friend or you will have considerable friction. An inspired new business or money idea will be very good for you.

AQUARIUS: (January 19 to February 17) Don't argue with friends whose points of view are radically different from yours. Invite only harmonious persons into your home.

PISCES: (February 18 to March 19) An older friend can be upsetting today if you are not careful. Don't listen to an outsider who wants you to change your money arrangements.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be one of those extremely interesting individuals who bring harmony and sweetness into the lives of those they come in contact with. After reaching adulthood this progeny becomes very active in many social, civic and institutional organizations all connecting with community efforts.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Coombs

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Love's row	1 Short of cash
5 Leafy spruce	2 Loyal
10 Stuff	3 Jet
14 Pradecament	4 Sea bird
15 Plead	5 Abundant
16 Buddhist monk	6 (Skel)
17 Calendar open	7 Gallantry
18 Paper term	
19 IA college town	
20 Al. member	
21 Savage	
24 Gentry	
25 Gamble	
28 Released	
32 Egg	
33 Satchel of yours	
34 Extinct bird	
37 Big gamble	
41 Seat — Marie	
42 Having brittle	
43 "There's — and a loud one!"	
44 "Ivanhoe"	
45 Show concept	
46 Coney	
47 Groove	
50 Ma MacGraw	
51 Leading depth	
52 Small stream	
53 Privileged group	
54 Mariner's word	
55 Ship	
56 Action scene	
58 Trudge	
59 In — (weeping)	
60 " — of Eden"	
61 " — of Eden"	
62 Jobbery	
63 Traveler	
64 Fruit skin	
65 Freudian term	
66 Dole bread	
67 Racing	
68 "Ball —"	
69 Move shyly	
70 Acce	
71 de Janeiro	
72 Leather place	
73 Ribbed fabric	
74 Logrolling tournament	
75 Soggy	

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS	DOWN
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5 Leafy spruce	2 Loyal
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Jordan Times

Tel: 667171-6

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Dustin Hoffman
Tom Cruise
in

RAIN MAN

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Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Terry Farrell...in
CRAZY LEGS

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Charles Bronson...
in
"The White Buffalo"

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NUJUM

COCKTAIL

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677428

PLAZA

Dustin Hoffman
Tom Cruise
in

RAIN MAN

Performances: 4:00, 6:45,

Thatcher rejects tighter Pretoria sanctions

Commonwealth leaders reach compromise on South Africa

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other Commonwealth leaders agreed Sunday that sanctions against South Africa should stay until its government introduced "clear and irreversible change."

But Thatcher refused to back a call by the other 48 leaders to seek tighter sanctions against Pretoria, including curbing trade credits by banks to 90 days and ending government guarantees for trade financing and insurance.

The Commonwealth leaders approved the statement entitled "Southern Africa: The Way Ahead" at a weekend retreat on the resort island of Langkawi.

They agreed "this was not the time to consider any relaxation of existing sanctions and pressures. That would have to await evidence of clear and irreversible change."

But they said existing Commonwealth sanctions and "measures" — the British term — should be maintained, including bans on oil sales, new investment and loans and tourism promotion.

Thatcher and her partners in the organisation linking Britain and its former imperial posses-

sions agreed that "the only justification for sanctions against South Africa was the pressure they created for fundamental political change."

"Their purpose was not punitive, but to abolish apartheid by bringing Pretoria to the negotiating table and keeping it there until that change was irreversibly secured."

However Britain refused to endorse a paragraph acknowledging that sanctions had begun to influence South Africa's policies.

Thatcher, opposing consensus over South Africa for the second summit in a row, also refused to approve an Australian proposal to set up an independent agency to monitor South Africa's international financial links.

And she declined to back the continued existence of a Commonwealth committee of foreign ministers on South Africa, which Thatcher regards as a "talking shop."

The statement took a cautious view of the situation in South Africa under new President F.W. De Klerk, who has freed some political prisoners and relaxed curbs on demonstrations.

They agreed there was "the possibility that significant changes might be in reach" following De Klerk's acceptance of a degree of political activity by the black majority.

But the statement avoided giving De Klerk any pat on the back for his opening steps to reform, as Britain wanted.

Instead the Commonwealth leaders noted that the state of emergency was still in force, political prisoners were still in jail, political movements were banned and there were still executions in political cases.

"There had also been no action to indicate that the new South African government was prepared to dismantle the pillars of apartheid," it said.

They agreed that "such encouraging signs as there had been were very much the product of a combination of internal and external pressures."

They welcomed the role played

by the Mass Democratic Movement, South Africa's anti-apartheid opposition, and praised its "sustained, disciplined and peaceful opposition."

The statement repeated earlier Commonwealth formulas for a peaceful negotiated settlement first issued four years ago in Nassau and rejected by South Africa in 1986.

This would involve a suspension of violence by the African National Congress and others in exchange for release of prisoners and other concessions by Pretoria.

The statement did not give wholesale endorsement to the "Harare declaration" on South Africa approved by African states in August as a blueprint for change.

However it noted with satisfaction the declaration's strong preference for a negotiated and peaceful settlement.

The leaders, acting on an Australian proposal, dangled a carrot in front of Pretoria by agreeing to ask the International Monetary Fund to study how funds might be mobilised for restoring international loans "upon evidence of clear and irreversible change."

NATO to discuss nuclear issues

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — NATO defence ministers, grappling with fast-paced changes in the Soviet Bloc, may order a review of nuclear firepower in Western arsenals at a meeting this week.

The defence ministers from the countries that make up the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) are meeting for two days of talks on nuclear strategy, beginning Tuesday on the southern coast of Portugal.

"There are no major decisions required at this meeting," said a senior NATO official. "The nuclear affairs of the alliance are running along very smoothly at this time."

Another official said, "it will be a good occasion to take stock of nuclear matters."

Added a third official, "it's going to be a rather uneventful meeting, but that's not necessarily a bad thing."

All three officials asked not to be further identified.

The meeting should be free of the tensions marking previous sessions of the nuclear planning group when U.S. and British officials clashed mostly with West German officials over development of a new nuclear missile for Europe.

U.S. President George Bush and other leaders of the 16-nation Western alliance resolved the dispute at their 40th anniversary summit in May.

"There is no need to address the issue at this stage," said one of the officials.

With that dispute behind them, the defence ministers can discuss the dramatic events in Eastern Europe that are shaping East-West relations — and how they should react.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner was expected to "call attention to the very positive changes" in the East Bloc countries, said the senior NATO official.

One of the other two officials suggested the ministers might urge the Soviet Union to "do more" in reducing its nuclear weapons stockpile. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has promised to remove 500 short-range nuclear weapons from Europe this year.

According to Western estimates, the Soviet Union has 1,450 short-range nuclear missile launchers in Europe. NATO has 88 Lance launchers, most based in West Germany.

The ministers also were expected to discuss making fresh contacts with East Bloc officials.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, who will be among those attending the NATO meeting, recently met with Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov.

The most likely action taken by the defence ministers during their two-day meeting would be to ask top NATO aides to study the alliance's nuclear strategy in an era of reduced East-West tension.

One official said the ministers would likely want "an examination of the implications of an agreement on conventional forces in Europe... for alliance nuclear forces."

NATO negotiators are bargaining with the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact in Vienna, Austria, and hope to reach a quick agreement on reducing stockpiles of conventional, or non-nuclear, weapons in Europe.

"The positive nature of those (talks) gives us some hope that we can look forward to a reduction in conventional forces and subsequent to that a reduction in nuclear forces," said the official.

The deeper the conventional cuts, he said, the greater the impact on NATO's nuclear strategy.

"I certainly wouldn't rule out that at some point in the future we decide certain elements of our nuclear posture are not necessary," he said. "(But) I think we're going to have to see some major changes on the other side before that's true."

He also said the allies "see no time in which we will not need some nuclear weapons."

Thousands without shelter after China quake

PEKING (AP) — Tens of thousands of homeless people spent their third night outdoors Saturday following the worst earthquake to hit northern China in more than a decade.

"The nightmare is unbearably cold," said Guan Xiaoping, a peasant who lost his home in the village of Guiren during the tremors Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

Guiren, which has a population of 2,400, was one of about 40 villages, mostly in Shanxi province, severely damaged by the quake.

Radio Peking reported Saturday that 27,500 houses had been destroyed, leaving more than 50,000 people homeless.

The radio report, monitored in Tokyo, also said that 32,400 homes were damaged and in danger of collapse, and that cracks had appeared in the Shanxi No. 2 Dam.

Official reports Friday listed 29 people dead and more than 150 injured. The state-run press carried no new reports of casualties Saturday.

Guan said he had received noodles, bread, clothing and millet from the government, and that soldiers had helped him build a makeshift wood and mud shelter.

But he said there had been no promise of help in rebuilding his home.

"For winter we will build stronger tents," he said. "We have no choice."

On Saturday night the national television news, in its first extensive report on the disaster, showed truckloads of food and matting being delivered.

Death toll climbs to 132 in Honduran plane crash

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — A jet liner carrying 146 people crashed in driving winds and low clouds into the hills outside the capital of Honduras, killing 132, the Red Cross said.

Red Cross rescue official Miguel Angel Silva told Reuters rescue workers had retrieved 132 charred bodies from the wreckage of Tan Sabasa Flight 414, which crashed as it descended to Tegucigalpa's Toncontin Airport.

According to Silva, 14 people aboard the Boeing 727 survived the crash, described by local aviation officials as the worst in Honduran history and possibly in all of Central America.

Local hospital officials said, however, that 16 or 17 people may have survived and no official death toll had been released by late Saturday.

Tan Sabasa, the official Honduran airline, listed 138 passengers, seven crew members and one airline official aboard the flight from Costa Rica via Nicaragua to Honduras. The flight is often used by Central American travellers to get to Miami.

The plane was carrying passengers from 15 different nationalities, the official said. The Red Cross spokesman was unable to provide a breakdown of the nationalities of the dead or the survivors.

Tan Sabasa officials had earlier given a tentative passenger list that included Hondurans, Costa Ricans, Nicaraguans, Americans and others from East and West Europe and South America.

The Honduran government confirmed among the dead Minister of Labour Armando Blanco and declared three days of national mourning.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said 12 Americans died in the crash, while three survived. Two of the survivors were being transported outside the country for medical treatment while the third was in shock, doctors said.

Survivors of the crash, who all appeared to be in the plane's front rows, said there was little warning that the plane was going down.

"The pilot announced that in a few minutes we were going to arrive in Tegucigalpa and then we entered a cloud and the plane began to shake and went down," said Hernan Madrid, a 40-year-old Honduran survivor.

"Then there were explosions," he told reporters from his bed in a private clinic where he was being treated for burns.

Rosario Abada, a Nicaraguan passenger, said she was half asleep just before the crash Saturday morning.

S. Africa reportedly to ease demands on ANC

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's biggest newspaper said Sunday that Pretoria is ready to drop a key demand that the black African National Congress (ANC) abandon armed struggle before taking part in negotiations.

"This dramatic change of approach will remove the main stumbling block in the way of a face-to-face meeting between the government and the most important black liberation movement," the Sunday Times said in a front-page story.

There was no official comment on the report, which quoted government sources.

South African President F.W. De Klerk said in a speech in Pretoria Saturday that the government still wanted the ANC and other groups fighting white rule to renounce violence as part of steps towards reconciliation.

But since De Klerk was sworn in as president four weeks ago in succession to P.W. Botha, Pretoria's attitude towards the ANC

and a host of anti-apartheid and anti-government organisations has changed radically.

The government has given permission for a rally to be addressed by newly freed members of the ANC despite the fact that the nationalist group is officially outlawed.

The rally, to be held next Sunday in a stadium called Soccer City near the black township of Soweto, is being billed by its organisers as one of the most important political events in South Africa in recent decades.

The main speaker will be Walter Sisulu, the ANC leader freed a week ago along with seven other leading political prisoners as part of dramatic reform moves by De Klerk.

"This will be the first rally of leaders of the African National Congress in nearly 30 years," said a statement by a committee formed to welcome home the eight detainees, who between them spent 185 years in prison.

Colombia seizes tonne of cocaine; makes more arrests

BOGOTA (R) — Police said they had seized over a tonne of cocaine and arrested two more Colombians sought on drug trafficking charges in the United States.

The cocaine, one of the biggest hauls in Colombia's two-month-old crackdown on drug trafficking, was discovered during a raid on a farm 280 kilometres north of Bogota Friday, they said.

Along with the cocaine, estimated to have a street value of \$40 million, police said Saturday they seized a submachine-gun, two pistols and \$110,000. No arrests were made.

Earlier police said they had arrested two more Colombians sought on U.S. drug smuggling charges, bringing to four the number seized in the past 24 hours.

Diana Caballero Rangel and her brother, Roberto Caballero Rangel, were captured early Friday in the town of Bucaramanga, 320 kilometres north east of Bogota.

Their arrest brings to 10 the number of drug suspects being held for possible extradition to the United States.

And in another setback for those who oppose abortion, the Florida state legislature refused to restrict abortions.

The government only pays for abortions when a pregnant woman's life is in danger. Bush vetoed the legislation at a time when public opinion polls show a majority of Americans resist more restrictive rules on abortions.

The veto puts Bush at odds with the two top Democrats in Congress, House Speaker Tom Foley and Senate majority leader George Mitchell who said it would deny the right of free choice to the poorest, most vulnerable women.

However, Foley has acknowledged that the House was unlikely to muster the two-thirds majority vote needed to override a veto.

Thousands demonstrate in Soviet Kazakhstan against nuclear tests

MOSCOW (AP) — Thousands of Soviet anti-nuclear protesters staged a demonstration Saturday in Kazakhstan against nuclear testing in the Central Asian Republic, TASS reported.

The protesters gathered in the centre of Alma Ata, Kazakhstan's capital, "to say 'no' to nuclear testing in the testing areas of the American state of Nevada and the Semipalatinsk area of Kazakhstan," the Soviet News Agency said.

Protesters in Semipalatinsk and other towns around Kazakhstan also held protests, it said. TASS said the protests were organised by a Soviet anti-nuclear group called Nevada-Semipalatinsk, the most prominent grassroots anti-nuclear group in the Soviet Union.

Infant mortality in the area around Semipalatinsk is among the highest in the country and the cancer rate there has been climbing steeply for the last 15 years, a prominent Kazakhstan health official told the crowd in Alma Ata.

The protesters appealed for the Soviet Union's legislature to put the "immediate closing of the Semipalatinsk polygon," or testing site, on its agenda, TASS said.

On Friday, some 150 students from Kazakhstan converged on the Defence Ministry's general staff building in Moscow to call for an end to the underground tests in their homeland.

Uzbeks remove premier

In a separate development, lawmakers in the Central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan removed their premier, made Uzbek the state language and banned ethnic restrictions on the right to vote, the TASS said Saturday.

The republic, like several others around the Soviet Union, has been the site in recent months of ethnic clashes, nationalist stirrings and calls for greater sovereignty that have posed a challenge to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

TASS said the republic's constitution had been amended to restore Uzbek as the official language. The Russian language was imposed on Uzbekistan by dictator Josef Stalin in the 1930s.

"Historical injustice, committed under Stalin, has been corrected," TASS said. "The republic's constitution is complemented with an article which proclaims Uzbek the state language."

Atlantis to return 90 minutes early

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Flight controllers have told the Atlantis astronauts they will have to return to Earth at least 90 minutes early Monday to avoid predicted high afternoon winds at the California landing site. Officials also said they were preserving an option of keeping the space shuttle in orbit an extra day or two if a landing can't be made Monday. A three-day extension was possible but not likely, they said. Meanwhile, Astronaut Franklin Chang-Diaz, a naturalised U.S. citizen who was born in San Jose, Costa Rica, spoke from orbit Saturday evening with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize winner. Arias praised Chang-Diaz for his accomplishments, saying he had "become an example to the young people of Costa Rica and of Latin America in general." To conserve power for a possible prolonged mission, the astronauts turned off unneeded lights and shut off some computers and other redundant equipment. They were directed Saturday to adjust their work and sleep schedules to be ready to return at least 90 minutes, or one orbit, early Monday. Bedtime was 90 minutes early Saturday and about 2 and 1/2 hours early Sunday.

COLUMN

Gorbachev, Delors receive prizes

OVIEDO, Spain (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and European Commission President Jacques Delors have jointly received a Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation. Soviet Ambassador to Spain Sergei Romanovskii and a European Commission official picked up the prize on behalf of Gorbachev and Delors. Crown Prince Felipe de Borbon, 21, also handed out the promotion of World Harmony Prize to British scientist and author Stephen Hawking. The ceremony was held in the Campoamor Theatre in Oviedo, the capital of the northern region of Asturias. Since 1981, the Prince of Asturias Foundation has presented annual awards to individuals and institutions for outstanding contributions in the humanities and sciences.

Seals go through withdrawal

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The seals and dolphins at the California Academy of Sciences at Golden Gate Park are going through withdrawal symptoms after Tuesday's earthquake because there are no visitors to the complex, museum spokesman David Shaw said. He said the mammals were accustomed to having thousands of people visit them and they were lonely. During the quake, the animals most upset were the alligators, who are usually laid-back and slow-moving. Security officer Fred Dominguez said: "They behaved just like people, trying to run in every direction without knowing where they were going."

Actress doesn't answer as Reagan's ex-wife

NEW YORK (AP) — During her 54 years in show business, Jane Wyman has been in 86 movies and has done nine years of television's "Falcon Crest." So the actress says she does not answer any calls as Ronald Reagan's former wife. "I don't have to be known as that," said Wyman, who ended an eight-year boycott on interviews by speaking to Vanity Fair for its November issue. "I've been in this business longer than he has. It's such bad taste." Which is not to say you shouldn't call at all. Wyman says she stays in contact with Hollywood friends like Barbara Stanwick and Loretta Young, although her work on "Falcon Crest" makes it difficult. "I have some close friends... we do a lot of telephoning," Wyman said. "My friends understand me when I say, 'Everything is on hold until the series is finished.'"

Earthquake T-shirts a big hit

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Quake T-shirts have become the rage among souvenir shoppers who survived the California earthquake. "I Survived the Great Quake 1989" was selling for \$8. "6.9 — '89 — Bay Area Quake," could be had for \$10. But the Richter Scale rating emblazoned on the shirt seemed tied to the price. "I Survived the Quake — 7.0," said the \$20 version. The shirts were a big hit all over San Francisco. One store at Fisherman's Wharf claimed to have sold 1,000 shirts in half an hour. "America leads the way in cashing in at times like this. People may still be trapped in the rubble, but the T-shirts are here," said Lisa Cozens, a tourist from Melbourne, Australia, and the owner of a brand new quake shirt.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	12	64	17 65 Cloudy
ATHENS	11	62	22 72 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	24	75	33 91 Clear
BANGKOK	23	73	31 88 Clear
BIRMINGHAM	16	61	25 77 Clear
CAIRO	17	63	27 81 Clear
CHICAGO	01	24	40 54 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	10	50	12 64 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	11	52	19 61 Cloudy
GENOVA	07	45	20 68 Clear
HONG KONG	22	73	24 75 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	10	50	18 64 Cloudy
LONDON	13	55	19 65 Rain
LOS ANGELES	16	64	22 72 Cloudy
MADRID	10	50	25 77 Clear
MEXICO	25	79	36 97 Cloudy
MONTREAL	04	39	48 68 Rain
MOSCOW	05	27	37 48 Clear
NEW DELHI	16	31	31 91 Clear
NEW YORK	12	59	22 72 Cloudy
PARIS	15	59	17 63 Clear
ROME	13	55	20 68 Clear
SYDNEY	12	53	21 70 Clear
TOKYO	11	52	18 64 Clear
VIENNA	07	45	16 65 Clear

IRAQI-JORDANIAN LAND TRANSPORT CO.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 1B/89 SALE OF USED TRUCK-TRACTORS

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company intends to sell a number of its used truck-tractors:-

- A number of (109) used truck-tractors type M.A.N. manufactured in 1981.
- A number, of upto, (242) used truck-tractors type (STYER), manufactured in 1981.

Related information

- Custom duties of those truck-tractors are UNPAID.
- Offers can be submitted to buy one truck-tractor, or a number of truck-tractors or all the quantity.
- Truck-tractors can be checked and inspected at the company's garages in Aqaba/ Jordan starting from Nov. 10, 1989.
- Copies of terms and conditions and technical specifications can be bought for the sum of 100 Jordanian dinars (JD), from the company's main offices in Amman, between 4th and 5th Circle, Jabal Amman, during official working hours (0900-1400), starting from Oct. 25, 1989.
- Closing date for submitting offers is Dec. 10, 1989 (1200 hrs).
- Address:

P.O. Box 5134, Amman / Jordan
Phone No.: 677680, 672502, 672509
TLX No.: 22237
FAX No.: 602870

Eng. Jamil Ibrahim
Director General

IRAQI-JORDANIAN LAND TRANSPORT CO.

Tender No. (...12/89)

Sale of brand new spare parts for truck tractors (M.A.N. - Steyr) (Custom duty unpaid)

Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Company intends to sell quantity of brand new spare parts for truck tractors. Custom duties of those spare parts are unpaid.

Copies of terms and conditions and lists of spare parts can be bought from company's main offices in Jabal Amman, between Fourth and Fifth Circles, during working hours (0800 - 1400) for the sum of 25 Jordan Dinars (JD), starting from 21/10/89.

Closing dates for submitting offers is 25/11/89. (1200 hrs).

ENG. Jamil Ibrahim
Director General